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World Player of the Year

Owen

Trebles all round for Liverpool's golden boy

World Cup special

Pele's verdict on all 32 finalists

Exclusive interviews:

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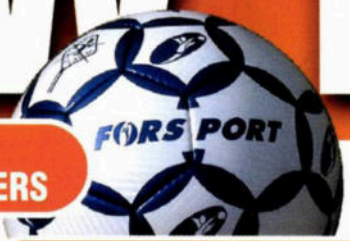

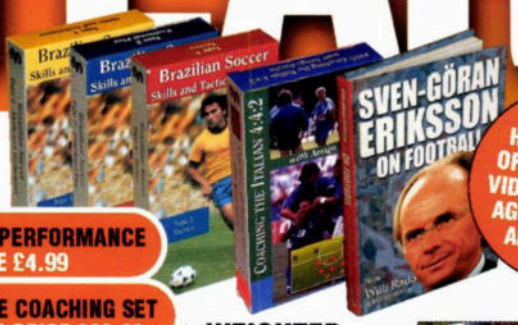

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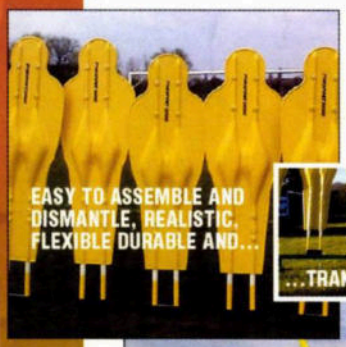

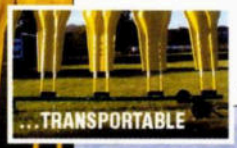

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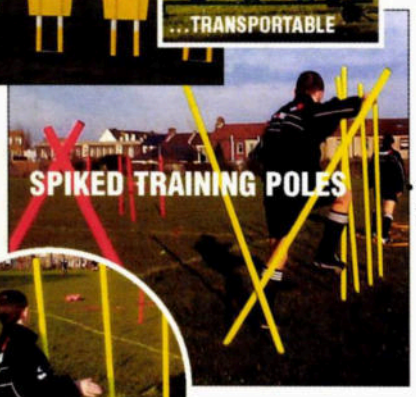

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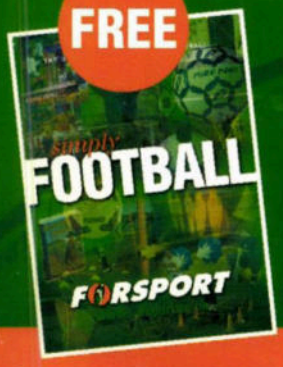

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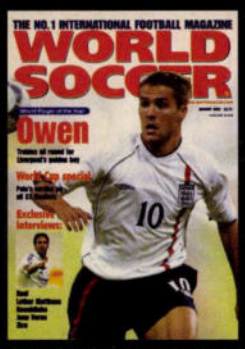

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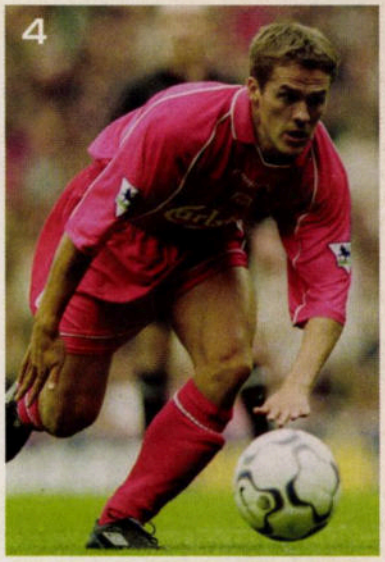

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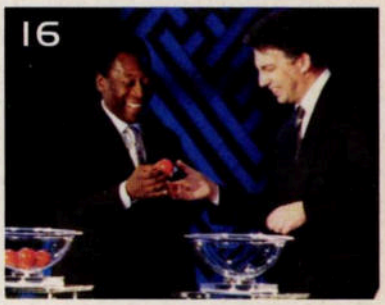


THE WORLD CUP draw threw up some surprises, none more so than the announcement by Sepp Blatter that World Cup holders will no longer qualify automatically for the finals. Blatter's bid to win support for his re-election as FIFA president in May is behind the change, which has rightly attracted criticism for the way in which it was announced.

Chung Mong-joon, interviewed on page 20, has been mentioned as a possible challenger to Blatter. Dr Chung's background and motives will be scrutinised over the coming months, but his body language during our interview suggests to me that he is more interested in using the World Cup to launch a bid to become state president of South Korea than directly challenging Blatter.

The World Cup draw dominates our coverage this month and between now and the summer, we will be devoting more and more space to the tournament. Next month, we publish the first of our series of guides to the 32 finalists. From the copy I have already seen from our correspondents, I know that the booklets will once again prove invaluable.

Finally, congratulations to Michael Owen and Liverpool for making a clean sweep of our awards (page 4). Had the voting not closed before Bayern Munich's World Club Cup triumph (page 6), we may have had different winners. There was undoubtedly a sympathy vote for Gerard Houllier following his recent health problems. On behalf of *World Soccer*, I'd like to wish him well as he continues his recovery.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

WORLD SOCCER

Liverpool sweep the board

Trebles all round at Anfield after conclusive poll victory

OWEN...
World Player of the Year

HOULLIER...
World Manager of the Year

LIVERPOOL...
World Team of the Year

LIVERPOOL have achieved what no other club have done in 20 years of the World Soccer Awards, winning all three categories in our 2001 poll. Michael Owen saw off strong challenges from David Beckham and Raul to be named World Player of the Year, while Liverpool and their coach, Gerard Houllier, claimed the respective Team and Manager of the Year awards.

Owen has been recognised for his strong performances for both club and country in 2001. Undoubtedly, his remarkable hat-trick for England against Germany in Munich tipped the vote in his favour. Beckham polled highly following his inspiring performance against Greece in England's final World Cup qualifier, while the votes for Raul were recognition of his remarkable consistency for Real Madrid.

Last year's World Player of the Year, Luis Figo, could manage only seventh place this time, while his Real Madrid team-mate Zinedine Zidane, another past winner, did not even make the top 10.

Owen is the first Englishman to win our award and his victory was the third year running that a player based outside Italy had won. Only three Italy-based players – Francesco Totti, Andrii Shevchenko and Hernan Crespo – feature in this year's top 10, compared to two from England (Owen, Beckham) and three from Spain (Raul, Rivaldo and Figo), a reflection, perhaps, of the changing nature of European football.

In a non-major tournament year, it was inevitable that voters would be influenced by the European cup competitions, and Liverpool's achievement in winning five trophies in as many months was unsurpassed. Their August triumphs in the English Charity Shield and European Supercup followed hot on the heels of what was already a remarkable treble – English League Cup, FA Cup and UEFA Cup.

Owen, Houllier and co withstood a strong challenge from Champions League winners Bayern Munich, whose coach, Ottmar Hitzfeld, ran Houllier very close in the Manager award. Surprisingly, England coach Sven Goran Eriksson finished third behind Hitzfeld. The only other international coach to make the top 10 was Argentina's Marcelo Bielsa.

France, last year's Team winners, received only a handful of votes, while only one reader voted for last year's Manager of the Year, Dino Zoff. Liverpool are the third English club to win the Team award, while Houllier becomes the fourth Frenchman to claim the Manager award.

Although English football claimed all three awards, the votes were cast from more than 50 countries, including Ethiopia, Lebanon, Myanmar and the Seychelles.

AWARDS 2001

How you voted

WORLD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

		% of votes
1	Michael Owen (Liverpool & England)	30.72
2	David Beckham (Man Utd & England)	16.46
3	Raul (Real Madrid & Spain)	11.89
4	Francesco Totti (Roma & Italy)	7.53
5	Rivaldo (Barcelona & Brazil)	6.23
6	Oliver Kahn (Bayern Munich & Germany)	3.52
7	Luis Figo (Real Madrid & Portugal)	3.24
8	Andrii Shevchenko (Milan & Ukraine)	2.74
9	Henrik Larsson (Celtic & Sweden)	2.12
10	Hernan Crespo (Lazio & Argentina)	1.84
Others		13.71

WORLD MANAGER OF THE YEAR

		% of votes
1	Gerard Houllier (Liverpool)	28.35
2	Ottmar Hitzfeld (Bayern Munich)	20.26
3	Sven Goran Eriksson (England)	18.53
4	Fabio Capello (Roma)	7.64
5	Marcelo Bielsa (Argentina)	4.43
6	Martin O'Neill (Celtic)	3.92
7	Hector Cuper (Valencia/Internazionale)	2.54
8	Mane (Alaves)	2.47
9	Carlos Bianchi (Boca Juniors)	1.75
10	Vicente Del Bosque (Real Madrid)	1.24
Others		8.99

WORLD TEAM OF THE YEAR

		% of votes
1	Liverpool	26.35
2	Bayern Munich	25.56
3	Argentina	14.92
4	Roma	5.83
5	Real Madrid	4.54
6	Boca Juniors	3.84
7	Alaves	3.34
8	Senegal	2.55
9	Portugal	1.56
10	Celtic	1.35
Others		10.16

PREVIOUS WINNERS (% of votes in brackets)

	WORLD PLAYER OF THE YEAR	WORLD MANAGER OF THE YEAR	WORLD TEAM OF THE YEAR
1982	Paolo Rossi (Juventus & Italy, 23)	Enzo Bearzot (Italy, 49)	Brazil (30)
1983	Zico (Udinese & Brazil, 28)	Sepp Piontek (Denmark, 29)	Hamburg (29)
1984	Michel Platini (Juventus & France, 54)	Michel Hidalgo (France, 30)	France (45)
1985	Michel Platini (Juventus & France, 21)	Terry Venables (Barcelona, 30)	Everton (42)
1986	Diego Maradona (Napoli & Argentina, 36)	Guy Thys (Belgium, 15)	Argentina (15)
1987	Ruud Gullit (Milan & Holland, 39)	Johan Cruyff (Ajax, 25)	FC Porto (38)
1988	Marco Van Basten (Milan & Holland, 43)	Rinus Michels (Holland & Bayer Leverkusen, 48)	Holland (43)
1989	Ruud Gullit (Milan & Holland, 24)	Arrigo Sacchi (Milan, 42)	Milan (51)
1990	Lothar Matthaus (Inter & West Germany, 22)	Franz Beckenbauer (West Germany, 53)	West Germany (28)
1991	Jean-Pierre Papin (Marseille & France, 25)	Michel Platini (France, 42)	France (20)
1992	Marco Van Basten (Milan & Holland, 19)	Richard Moller Nielsen (Denmark, 28)	Denmark (37)
1993	Roberto Baggio (Juventus & Italy, 14)	Alex Ferguson (Manchester United, 21)	Parma (24)
1994	Paolo Maldini (Milan & Italy, 27)	Carlos Alberto Parreira (Brazil, 17)	Milan (33)
1995	Gianluca Vialli (Juventus & Italy, 18)	Louis Van Gaal (Ajax, 42)	Ajax (50)
1996	Ronaldo (Barcelona & Brazil, 17)	Berti Vogts (Germany, 28)	Nigeria (31)
1997	Ronaldo (Barcelona/Inter & Brazil, 27)	Ottmar Hitzfeld (Borussia Dortmund, 17)	Borussia Dortmund (20)
1998	Zinedine Zidane (Juventus & France, 23)	Arsene Wenger (Arsenal, 28)	France (35)
1999	Rivaldo (Barcelona & Brazil, 42)	Alex Ferguson (Manchester United, 60)	Manchester United (61)
2000	Luis Figo (Barcelona/Real Madrid & Portugal, 26)	Dino Zoff (Italy, 18)	France (33)

World-beaters...Bayern captain Oliver Kahn (centre) lifts the trophy

Bayern make the breakthrough

The Germans saw off 10-man Boca in a tense Tokyo Final, reports John Holmesdale

WORLD CLUB CUP FINAL

Tokyo - November 27, 2001
BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Kuffour 110)
BOCA JUNIORS 0
***Aet.* HT: 0-0. 90mins: 0-0; Att: 51,360;**
Ref: Milton Nielsen (Den)
Bayern: Kahn - Sagnol, Kuffour, R Kovac, Lizarazu, N Kovac (Jancker 76), Fink, Hargreaves (Sforza 76), Paulo Sergio, Elber, Pizarro (Thiam 118).
Boca: Cordoba - Burdisso, Martinez (Calvo 19; Carreno 112), Schiavi, Rodriguez, Serna, Villarreal (Pinto 100), Traverso, Riquelme, Delgado, Barros Schelotto.
Sent off: Delgado 45min.

ALL the pre-match talk was of Bayern Munich's South American connections before the annual showdown between Europe and South America in the World Club Cup Final.

Yet it was an African – Samuel Kuffour, the Ghanaian defender famous for breaking down in tears on the pitch after defeat in the 1999 Champions League Final – who was the toast of Tokyo. Kuffour scored in extra time as jet-lagged Bayern beat Boca Juniors 1-0.

Kuffour's goal, from a goalmouth scramble following Ciriaco Sforza's 110th-minute corner, settled a bad-tempered match in front of 51,360 in the National stadium. Boca were forced to play the whole of the second half and extra time with 10 men after Marcelo Delgado was sent off for a second bookable offence just before half-time.

So Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld added the World Club Cup – also known as the Toyota Cup, after the sponsors since 1980, or the Intercontinental Cup – to his already hugely impressive CV.

"The World Club Cup is a very prestigious title to win. Although we lost the [European] Supercup, we came here thinking this is the title we really wanted to win and write another chapter in Bayern's history.

"We left it late, we should have made the breakthrough earlier. We controlled the tempo of the game, even though Boca were trying to spoil it after the sending-off."

Boca coach Carlos Bianchi, the mastermind behind the Argentinians' victory over Real Madrid in the corresponding fixture 12 months earlier, had a predictably different take on events. "The game was a stalemate, with both sides cancelling each other out until the red card. That changed everything. If we had played 11 against 11, we would have won," said Bianchi.

Delgado was booked on 19 minutes for kicking the ball into an empty net after play had been called back for offside. Then in first-half injury time, Danish referee Kim Milton Nielsen produced a second yellow after Delgado had fallen at the feet of Bayern keeper Oliver Kahn. Nielsen indicated that he felt the striker had dived.

The decision angered the Boca players, who felt that Bayern's Giovane Elber, Paulo Sergio and Bixente Lizarazu should all have been punished for offences far worse than Delgado's. "The only thing the referee didn't do for Bayern was go on the lap of honour with them," said midfielder Mauricio Serna.

Even with numerical advantage and much greater possession, Bayern struggled to break the deadlock. Claudio Pizarro and Carsten Jancker were both denied by Boca keeper Oscar Cordoba.

Bayern, who were missing midfielder Stefan Effenberg through injury, finally made the breakthrough in the second period of extra time. Thorsten Fink headed down Sforza's corner and Kuffour swept the loose ball into the roof of the net.

It was a disappointing end for Boca, who had arrived in Tokyo days ahead of the game, unlike Bayern, who landed just 24 hours before kick-off. The Argentinians now face life without coach Bianchi, whose

Sammy special...Kuffour grabs the winner

contract expires in December. He has been linked with World Cup finalists Paraguay and Uruguay.

The World Club Cup itself has an uncertain future following the collapse of ISL earlier this year. Under the contract with the marketing company, the match was due to stay in Tokyo until 2002.

"The contract for next year has turned blank," Japanese FA president Shun-Ichiro Okano said after Bayern's victory.

Okano added that he had held talks with UEFA president Lennart Johansson and his South American counterpart, Nicolas Leoz, on the future of the fixture, saying: "Everything depends on the future talks, although we have been approached in a positive manner."

UEFA are keen on a return to a two-leg home-and-away format, which would generate more revenue for all parties. Ironically, it was European reluctance to play a two-leg Final that led to the switch to Tokyo in 1980. Following the example of Ajax in 1971 and 1973, Bayern declined to represent Europe in 1974 and 1975.

● After his match-winning performance in Tokyo, Sammy Kuffour is the favourite to be voted African Footballer of the Year. Kuffour heads a shortlist, from which the Confederation of African Football will announce a winner in early 2002.

Hitzfeld hits the heights

Bayern's coach has worked hard for his success, says Keir Radnedge

OTTMAR HITZFELD is on top of the world. But long before the extra-time victory over holders Boca Juniors in the World Club Cup in Tokyo, Hitzfeld had been up there at No 1.

No football coach anywhere in the world is held in higher regard to judge from the 'wanted lists' quoted every time a top club or country are looking for a new manager.

Hitzfeld, 52, is not a superman. The day Bayern took on Boca, the German media splashed revelations of an alleged liaison with a Brazilian model some years ago. But Hitzfeld rode that unwanted publicity with typical dignity. He may have an aura of success but he does not parade it.

He says: "I have known difficult years in my career and I have had to fight my way through like everyone else. That's why I always insist that nobody – none of my players, for example – takes anything for granted. Anyone who does not worry about things does not have the capability to react in time when the going gets tough."

No wonder Hitzfeld's name is mentioned so often as speculation increases over the identity of Sir Alex Ferguson's successor at Manchester United. Hitzfeld makes no secret of his affection for Old Trafford.

He says: "It's very difficult, usually, for the coaches or managers to have much contact around a big game like in the Champions League. But at Old Trafford the dugouts are much closer than we are used to in Germany and, also, Alex Ferguson's office isn't far away. There's a couch in there and we can sit and talk during the 20 minutes or so when the players are having their pre-match warm-up.

"We have a lot in common. We are with two of the biggest clubs in the world and the biggest in our own countries so the pressures on each of us are the same.

"I am always being asked whether I will go to United or to the German national team job – and the answer is always the same. I am very honoured when people say I should be considered a candidate for one job or the other but I have a contract at Bayern until 2004. I have never yet broken a contract and I do not intend that my relationship with Bayern should be any different."

Hitzfeld is more than 'merely' the coach at Bayern, he is a key member of the management core who lay down long-term playing strategy on and off the pitch. He has no regrets, for example, that Bayern are not in the same financial league as the likes of Real Madrid.

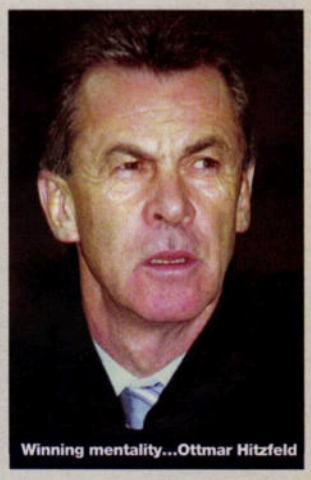
"In the international transfer market it's true that we are not, perhaps, one of the biggest players," he says. "But the best individuals do not always guarantee you the best team. Our priority is to build good team spirit and morale – and you can achieve that only if each member of the squad puts everything at the service of the team.

"Signing a big star can create more problems than it solves. At a big club, it means another star must sit on the bench – and that creates tensions. We may be facing that situation. If Michael Ballack joins us next summer as well as Sebastian Deisler then there is no chance that Stefan Effenberg could stay. That would be a superstar too far."

The rapid turnover in the transfer market is blamed by Hitzfeld for the failure of any present-day club to challenge the long-term European command exerted by five-times champions Real Madrid in the early years and then Ajax and Bayern, who each won the Cup three years in succession in the 1970s.

Hitzfeld says: "Today it is much more difficult than it was even 10 and certainly 20 years ago to stay at the top. The Bosman verdict had a lot to do with that. For example, it has always been the philosophy of Bayern to invest in German players, but we can do that only when their contracts expire. It was disappointing for me, as a German, to see how few Bayern players were in the national squad for the World Cup play-offs against Ukraine. If I had my way, every club's 18-man squad would have to include at least nine Germans."

Hitzfeld's priority this season has been to beat the dangers of over-confidence engendered by last season's triumphs in both the German League and Champions League.



Winning mentality...Ottmar Hitzfeld

'Anybody who does not worry about things does not have the capability to react in time when the going gets tough'

"We have worked hard not to fall into the trap of complacency. We made a good start in the Bundesliga and we reached the second phase of the Champions League. It is surprising that we haven't had more of a hangover, especially when you consider so many important players have been injured. That says a lot for the character of our players."

It also says plenty about the character and command of their coach.

● 04/11/01…Tottenham midfielder Darren Anderton is recalled to the England squad after a two-year injury-enforced absence

● 04/11/01…After a 1-0 defeat at Torino, Fatih Terim is sacked as coach of Milan, who prepare to appoint old boy Carlo Ancelotti

● 05/11/01…Emmanuel Petit withdraws from the France squad for the controversial trip to play Australia

● 06/11/01…Former Argentina coach Daniel Passarella is appointed as the new coach at Parma after Carlo Ancelotti opts to replace Fatih Terim at Milan

Diego bows out

Eric Weil in Buenos Aires sees Maradona bid farewell to the Boca fans

A HOST of former stars travelled to Buenos Aires to pay tribute to Diego Maradona in what was supposed to be his final farewell match. Hristo Stoichkov, Davor Suker, Enzo Francescoli, Carlos Valderrama, Eric Cantona and Lothar Matthaus all turned out for an All-Stars side, which was beaten 6-3 by Argentina's national team.

Many of the All-Stars are way past their best and Argentina won at a canter. Maradona, who was 41 in October, scored two of their goals from the penalty spot.

The oft-postponed match finally went ahead at Boca Juniors' stadium, where the world's greatest player of the 1980s and early 1990s had two spells.

Now a portly figure, Maradona, who had a knee operation less than a month earlier, still showed occasional flashes of the brilliance which once entranced the world of soccer. He played the full 90 minutes (the second half wearing the shirt of Boca, his favourite club), although the game did progress at a snail's pace, probably in deference to the great man.

Maradona's controversial career had more than its fair share of peaks and troughs, notably his captaincy of Argentina in their

The month in pictures

● 07/11/01...FIFA president Sepp Blatter says that referees will be instructed to send off players who dive and feign injury at next year's World Cup finals

● 10/11/01...Goals from Ian Harte and Robbie Keane at Lansdowne Road give the Republic of Ireland a 2-0 victory in the first leg of their World Cup qualifying play-off against Iran

(again)

1986 World Cup triumph and his much-publicised drug problems. But for the 50,000 fans who packed into Boca's Bombonera ground, Maradona can do no wrong and he was given a hero's reception when he was chaired off at the end.

It was a pity the organisers made this the most expensive match ever staged in Argentina. Tickets cost £16 for standing and between £100 and £170 for seats.

They are now talking of staging similar Maradona 'farewells' in Italy and Japan. But he may have second thoughts about going to Italy, where it is alleged he owes more than £16million in tax.

ESM ELEVEN

EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES

TEAM OF THE MONTH - NOVEMBER 2001

HOW THEY LINE UP

Kahn (Bayern Munich, 1 vote*); Kuffour (Bayern Munich, 4), Samuel (Roma, 5), Serginho (Milan, 2); Manfredini (Chievo, 3), Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen, 5), Liverani (Lazio, 3), Zidane (Real Madrid, 5), Neuville (Bayer Leverkusen, 3); Kluivert (Barcelona, 3), Morientes (Real Madrid, 3)

*** There were seven different votes for goalkeepers. Kahn was selected as winning captain of World Club champions Bayern.**

A BOLA (Por)

Butt (Bayer Leverkusen); Montero (Juventus), Hyypia (Liverpool), Kuffour (Bayern Munich); Manfredini (Chievo), Zidane (Real Madrid), Sanchez (Boavista), Serginho (Milan); Neuville (Bayer Leverkusen), Raul (Real Madrid), Kluivert (Barcelona)

DON BALON (Spa)

Dudek (Liverpool); Puyol (Barcelona), Samuel (Roma), Kuffour (Bayern Munich), Riise (Liverpool); Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Liverani (Lazio), Zidane (Real Madrid), Manfredini (Chievo); Jardel (Sporting Lisbon), Morientes (Real Madrid)

FOOT MAGAZINE (Blg)

Warmuz (Lens); Cygan (Lille), Hyypia (Liverpool), Samuel (Roma), Cocu (Barcelona); Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Liverani (Lazio), Vieira (Arsenal), Neuville (Bayer Leverkusen); Morientes (Real Madrid), Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna)

GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT (Ita)

Peruzzi (Lazio); Sagnol (Bayern Munich), Nesta (Lazio), Montero (Juventus), Serginho (Milan); Eriberto (Chievo), Veron (Manchester Utd), Emerson (Roma), Zidane (Real Madrid); Kluivert (Barcelona), Crespo (Lazio)

KICKER (Ger)

Kahn (Bayern Munich); Nesta (Lazio), Kuffour (Bayern Munich), Samuel (Roma), Lizarazu (Bayern Munich); Victor (Deportivo La Coruna), Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Zidane (Real Madrid), Neuville (Bayer Leverkusen); Owen (Liverpool), Morientes (Real Madrid)

VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (Hol)

Ziegler (FC Tirol); J Zanetti (Internazionale), Ferdinand (Leeds), Samuel (Roma), Harte (Leeds); Verheyen (Club Brugge), Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Liverani (Lazio), Zidane (Real Madrid); Kluivert (Barcelona), Owen (Liverpool)

WORLD SOCCER (Eng)

Given (Newcastle United); Schneider (Bayer Leverkusen), Hierro (Real Madrid), Samuel (Roma), Kuffour (Bayern Munich); Manfredini (Chievo), Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Xavi (Barcelona); Raul (Real Madrid), Crespo (Lazio), Diego Tristan (Deportivo La Coruna)

NOTES AND QUOTES

"Crisis? You could say we're in crisis. We've been bottom since day one this season."
Nantes midfielder Frederic Da Rocha gives short shrift to a reporter asking why the French champions now find themselves bottom of the table.

"FC Bayern. The Bavarian House of Pleasure."
Cologne tabloid Express *enjoys telling the tale of an affair between Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld and a Brazilian model.*

Telling it like it is...Manfredini

"It wasn't a penalty. The foul was outside the area and the red card given to [Salvatore] Monaco was excessive."
Chievo wide-man Christian Manfredini puts himself in line for a fair play award.

"Ronaldo is as healthy as a fish."
Inter's Christian Vieri angles for the return to regular first-team football of his Brazilian strike partner.

● 12/11/01...Man United's Roy Keane may need surgery on his right knee, and could be out for up to three months

● 13/11/01...Ronaldo is quoted in the Italian press as saying he would like to play for Roma when he leaves Inter

● 14/11/01...Germany beat Ukraine 4-1 in the second leg of their World Cup play-off to qualify for the 2002 finals. There are also victories for Turkey over Austria, Slovenia over Romania, and Belgium over the Czech Republic

● 16/11/01...Paraguay sack coach Sergio Markarian despite having qualified for the 2002 World Cup

Q & A: Zico

Mike Plastow talks to the former Brazil star, now technical director of Japan's Kashima Antlers

'In the history of football, I don't think we have ever seen the kind of things Japan has achieved since turning professional'

Antlers recently celebrated their 10th anniversary. How would you sum up those years?
I am just full of gratitude. Back in 1991, I wanted to help Japanese football, at the start of professionalism, but I never imagined it would grow like this in only 10 years. Kashima was a small town, almost a village, and we only had a Second Division team, but the co-operation of everyone has been phenomenal. I am sure many other small towns want to learn from us. When they showed me the original offer, I knew I definitely wanted to do it, and I can only say my judgment was astonishingly correct.
We did have the knowhow and also the belief that wonderful things could be achieved.

In the history of football, I don't think we have ever seen the kind of things that Japan has achieved since turning professional. Japan now has players performing at the top level in Italy, Spain, Brazil and Holland. The boys who were 13 and 14 when the J.League began are now over there and doing well.

What were your personal priorities when you came to Antlers?
First, I wanted to teach the love of the team colours as a professional player, the love of the name of Kashima and the responsibility of the professional, and the need always to keep on striving to be better, that you are never there. This is true in Brazil or anywhere. There is no limit to progress. Every generation has its own character and philosophy, but the basics of the football professional are always the same.

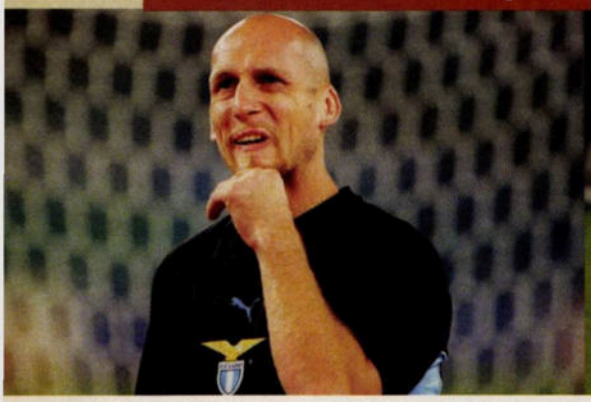
What do you want to say to the present generation?
At the start, we were playing on amateur-level grounds, with amateur-level locker rooms and other facilities. Now, the younger generation in Japan expect to play on pitches like carpets. I want them to know that this is all the result of the enormous efforts of those who came before them and I'd like them to appreciate that.

What are your fondest memories at Antlers?
Being made an honorary member of the city was very moving, but on the pitch it was our first J.League game in 1993 when we beat Nagoya Grampus Eight 5-0. That was a great, unexpected result and the day it all came together. We felt as if we had delivered our calling card.

Where should Japanese football go in the next 10 years?
The clubs must now go abroad more and play the club teams of stronger countries. If they do, then the clubs and players will grow, and the national team as well. They must keep going out of Japan.

Is there anything that you would like to export from Japan to Brazil?
The organisation. The hardware. The schedule, for example, is very player-friendly. The Japanese look after their players well. Only yesterday, I was talking with club officials about next year's schedule, and it's basically fixed already. There will be almost no changes. In Brazil, we don't even know next month's schedule!

The month in pictures



● 16/11/01...Lazio's Dutch defender Jaap Stam faces a lengthy ban after testing positive for the anabolic steroid nandrolone following a Serie A match against Atalanta on October 14

● 18/11/01...Fiorentina remain deep in trouble in Serie A after a 0-0 draw with Torino, while Chievo stay top, one point ahead of Internazionale, despite losing 3-2 to local rivals Verona

A Rapid start

Keir Radnedge on Lothar Matthaus's new life as a coach

THE full-blooded approach that Lothar Matthaus brought to the causes of Borussia Monchengladbach, Bayern Munich, Internazionale and Bayern again is back in evidence in Austria.

The former world record German international – with 150 caps – was linked with a number of top clubs after winding up his playing career in the United States with New York/New Jersey MetroStars. But, like former Bayern and Germany team-mate Klaus Augenthaler, he decided to launch his coaching career in Austria with pre-war greats Rapid Wien.

"Vienna is a wonderful city," says Matthaus. "The only pity is that I haven't yet had enough time to enjoy it. Apart from running the team and training I have been involved in the internal reorganisation of the club; then there have been meetings with sponsors, the media and fans. It's been so hectic I have had to ask the clubs against whom we play not to set up press conferences for us the day before a game or we would have no time to prepare properly."

How long Matthaus can hold his patience in a League in which crowds are so small is open to question. He is confident 'his' Rapid will soon be achieving the sort of success that will bring back the crowds. He says: "That's why it's been important to get the fans involved, so they understand our plans and can get behind the team."

There is a great deal of hard work in prospect but Matthaus has no fears, saying: "I come from a working-class family. I have always had that approach. When I was playing, there were a lot of players more talented than me but I made up the difference with my commitment and ambition."

Matthaus went to former Bayern coach and president Franz Beckenbauer for advice after being contacted by Rapid. The former FIFA World Player of the Year had already rejected approaches from Grazer AK and Eintracht Frankfurt but Beckenbauer thought Vienna would be a good starting point, and out of the limelight of the German media.

Rapid do not have the financial resources he would like to buy new players despite fervent speculation in the Viennese media. Matthaus says: "To buy all the players who have been linked with us since I came here we would have to sell our stadium. We don't have pots of money, quite the opposite. I must work with the players I have. But that's OK.

"Football is not just about money. Attitude is what's most important. For example, since I came here I have made training sessions twice as long. The players are not amateurs. They have to understand what it means to be professionals."

Just the sort of approach needed, one might think, from a future national coach of Germany, but Matthaus is not thinking that far ahead. He says: "It would be a great honour one day but that opportunity will come only if I succeed as a coach at club level. Right now I am at the bottom of the ladder."

Not that he has remained oblivious to the manner in which Germany struggled to qualify for the World Cup. There were obvious lessons there, according to Matthaus.

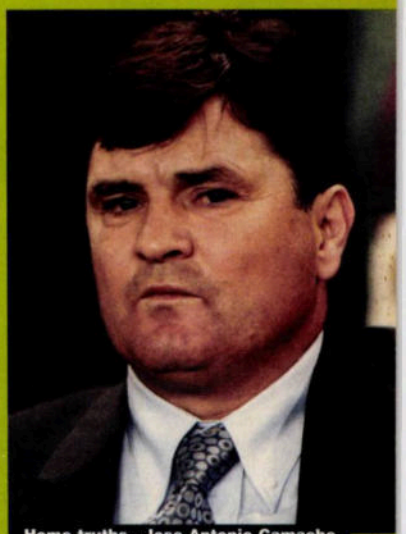
He says: "We must look very closely at the character of the players selected for the national team. It would be better to forget those with big egos and use less talented players who put their hearts into the game and are proud to play for Germany.

"There must never be another Germany team which includes players who earn millions but are not ready to give every last drop of sweat. I would have never made an international comeback had I known what was going to happen. Hopefully, the same mistakes will not be made again."

NOTES AND QUOTES

"At half-time we said to ourselves: 'Today it's 11 men against 11,000.' "
Hansa Rostock's Marcus Lantz describes the hostile atmosphere during the 2-1 home defeat by Wolfsburg, which sparked the sacking of Hansa boss Friedhelm Funkel.

"I will never throw in the towel."
Ajax coach Co Adriaanse days before being fired.



Home truths...Jose Antonio Camacho

"We always think we have won before playing and we are always knocked out in the opening rounds."
Spain coach Jose Antonio Camacho perfectly sums up Spain and the World Cup.

"It is surprising this is happening so often in Italy and that it only happens to foreigners. On behalf of Real Madrid, I'd like to express my support for Pep Guardiola. Nobody who knows him would ever doubt his dignity or his sporting ethics."
Real's sporting director Jorge Valdano offers support from the arch-enemy to former Barcelona man Guardiola following his positive drugs tests.

The month in pictures

● 20/11/01...A Kevin Muscat penalty puts Australia 1-0 up after the first leg of their World Cup play-off against Uruguay

● 22/11/01...Valencia beat Celtic 1-0 in the UEFA Cup 3rd round, first leg

● 23/11/01...David Beckham, Raul and Luis Figo are nominated for FIFA's Player of the Year award

● 25/11/01...Uruguay celebrate a 3-0 second leg play-off victory over Australia

Paul Gardner
GLOBAL VIEW

FIFA's blanket ban smothers the issues

JUST ABOUT a year ago, FIFA and the European Union were virtually coming to blows over regulations governing international transfers.

From all the squabbling, a turgid 25-page document emerged, written in the sort of language that only lawyers use – it does not make good reading. I gave it a go, but my tolerance for reading about measures to safeguard the financial interests of players and clubs and agents, who all seem to be doing pretty well, was short-lived.

One small area, just half a page, I did find worthwhile. This was Chapter VI, Article 12 – a mere 18 lines devoted to the have-nots of soccer. It's headed 'Protection of Minors'.

There have been plenty of cases of abuse where players as young as 13 – particularly kids from Africa and South America – have been lured to Europe with promises of fame and fortune, then simply abandoned when they failed to impress.

We're talking quite large numbers here, it seems. In February 2000, when the Italian Green Party demanded legislation to tackle the problem, it was claimed that there were over 5,000 foreign boys under the age of 16 with Italian clubs – and that only 23 of them had valid contracts.

One exotic case involved 17 Brazilian teenagers, kids from poor families, who had been recruited by an 'agent', required to sign 10-year contracts, then flown to an 'International Football School'...in Poland.

The abuse is widespread and frightening, and FIFA is right to seek an end to it. But FIFA's measures to correct the situation are so draconian that they raise real problems of their own.

In brief, FIFA is saying that players under the age of 18 cannot be transferred internationally, with one exception – if the boy's family also emigrates with him, it's OK. But only if that move is not related to the boy's football career, meaning a rich club cannot get round the ban by paying for the family's move and finding the father a job.

> 'It may well put a stop to the worst abuses. But will it also kill off the hopes and dreams of talented boys from poor countries?'

Regulations for the transfer of minors between EU countries are somewhat less strict, but that is not where the major abuses occur. For the rest of the world, the embargo on youngsters moving to Europe is almost total. No doubt that will put a stop to the worst of the abuses. But will it also kill off the hopes and dreams of talented boys from poor countries who have become the focus of genuine interest from top European clubs?

Suppose Milan discover a supremely promising 12-year-old in, say, Haiti. Strictly applied, the new FIFA diktat means the boy will have to stay in Haiti until he is 18. Receiving training and coaching in Haiti is not the same thing as receiving it at Milan.

Such an arrangement certainly does not seem to be "designed to encourage more and better training of young footballers" – a phrase used by FIFA in a circular summarising the new transfer regulations.

I had a chance, sort of, to question Sepp Blatter about this matter during a recent press conference in New York. Shouting my question across 50 yards of lawn at the United Nations (security is strict these days in New York), I got a shouted answer from the distant Blatter: "Such transfers are banned – we have to stop this abuse."

Yes indeed, but by what right can FIFA tell a family that their son cannot receive the best training, or that it cannot cash in on the boy's talent? If the family had a daughter who showed outstanding musical talent, what organisation would even dream of standing in the way of a scholarship to the Royal College of Music?

While I was pondering this on the UN lawn, I was approached by Jerome Champagne, who is Blatter's adviser.

"The President wants to be certain that you understood his answer," said Champagne.

"Well, no, I'm not sure that I did," I replied. "Are you saying that if a boy receives a genuine offer from a top European club, involving a large sum of money for the family – and they agree to his move..."

"He cannot go," said Champagne.

"But how can FIFA stop a family deciding what it wants," I replied. "Wouldn't that be illegal? Couldn't they take you to court?"

"Then let them go to court, we will oppose them in court," said Champagne.

I do not believe FIFA can enforce such strict measures. No doubt it is imposing a blanket ban to avoid the impossible task of having to decide each case on its merits.

But fairness demands that less stringent regulations be applied. Why not? The new transfer agreement calls for a Code of Conduct agreement with UEFA for transfers of minors within the EU. A code that would bind clubs to ensure a boy's football and academic training, and would punish those that did not comply.

That arrangement should also apply to non-EU youngsters. As EU sports commissioner Viviane Reding said last year, the main problem is not the international transfer of under-18s, but "how the youngest players in the clubs are treated – if the clubs make provision for their health, their studies, their professional training."

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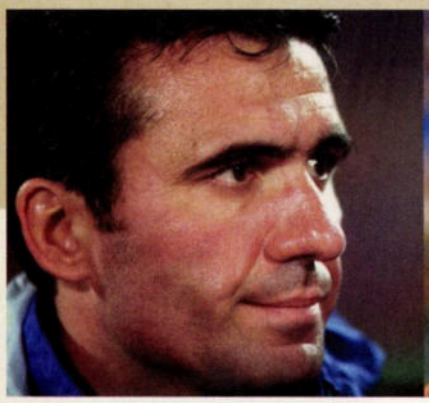
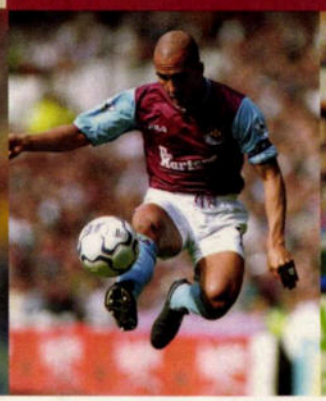
The month in pictures



● 26/11/01...Gheorghe Hagi quits as coach of Romania following the national side's World Cup play-off defeat by Slovenia

● 28/11/01...Brescia's Spanish international midfielder Josep Guardiola tests positive for nandrolone for a second time



● 29/11/01...West Ham's Paolo Di Canio, famous for once pushing over referee Paul Alcock, wins FIFA's fair play award

● 02/12/01...Real Sociedad stay in the relegation zone in Spain after defeat at Malaga, while Alaves go top for the first time in 71 years

TALENT SCOUT

Portugal

Nick Bidwell on the brightest prospects in Portuguese soccer

Tipped for big things...Benfica midfielder Ednilson

1 HUGO VIANA
(Club: Sporting Lisbon, born 15.01.83)
This midfield prodigy claims hesitancy is his most serious weakness, but no one would know it after he sensationally went from Sporting rookie to national team debutant in the space of just two months this autumn. *See profile, page 61.*

2 TIAGO
(Sporting Braga, 02.05.81)
Intelligent, solid defensive midfielder who tends to do his best work on the right side. Says he wants to stay and develop at Braga, but may not get his wish. Too many cheque-waving Spanish clubs may persuade Braga to cash in.

3 HELDER POSTIGA
(FC Porto, 02.08.82)
No other Portuguese League player has made more substitute appearances this season than the skilful and single-minded teenage striker from Porto. But the high quality of the Portugal Under-21 front-runner should ensure a more permanent spot in the not too distant future.

4 EDNILSON
(Benfica, 25.09.82)
Born in Guinea, but now a naturalised Portuguese, he is at his best in a midfield screening role, where he can put his excellent reading of the game and strong tackling to good effect. After spells in Italy with Roma and Reggina, he moved to Benfica earlier this year and is now on the fringes of the full Portuguese national squad.

5 BOSINGWA
(Boavista, 24.08.82)
Originally from the Congo but now a Portuguese citizen, his strong suit is his amazing versatility. His preferred role is as an attacking midfielder, but since joining Boavista from Freamunde last summer, he has also played as a midfield holder and up front, while for the Portuguese Under-21s he is the right-back.

6 RICARDO QUARESMA
(Sporting Lisbon, 26.09.83)
Another product of Sporting's prolific football academy, the multi-talented little attacker is so difficult to pin down and is tipped to follow team-mate Hugo Viana to stardom. Sporting coach Laszlo Boloni is a big fan and has regularly pitched the youngster into his first team this term.

7 MIGUEL
(Benfica, 04.01.80)
Attacking midfielder or winger with a surfeit of technical ability and effervescence. He has the advantage of being able to operate on either flank – for Benfica he is found on the right; for the Portuguese Under-21s he is often a left-sided source of attacking inspiration.

8 BETO II
(Sporting Lisbon, 01.05.82)
While this young keeper is not yet in the first-team picture at Sporting, those in the know say it is only a matter of time before he makes his professional breakthrough. A member of the Portuguese Under-20 side, he has built his reputation on his coolness under pressure and good positioning.

9 TONI
(Benfica, 23.07.79)
Polished and strong-willed young defender who fits the bill either at the heart of the rearguard or at right-back. Benfica beat off much continental and domestic opposition to sign him from Farense earlier this season.

10 LOURENCO
(Sporting Lisbon, 05.06.83)
A pacy and powerful front-runner or attacking midfielder, he was outstanding at the Toulon Under-20 tournament this year and now has graduated to the Sporting first-team squad. Had a short spell on loan in England with Bristol City last season.

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2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

'I'm embarrassed for Brazil!'

Pele gives his verdict on the World Cup draw

I FEEL somewhat embarrassed commenting on the World Cup draw because I helped place Brazil in what is otherwise the weakest section, Group C.

I could hardly believe our luck. Brazil were terrible in qualifying because we changed the coach twice and we switched six or eight players every game.

Now we have six months to prepare and that will make all the difference – as long as the confederation does not change the coach [Luiz Felipe Scolari] again. For me a World Cup is always about Latin America against Europe – and the best players in Europe are Brazilian so that tells its own story.

I always warn there are no easy games. But playing against Turkey – though I know they have improved a lot – China and Costa Rica is as close to 'easy' as it gets at a World Cup. China have no World Cup experience and no tradition; Costa Rica are a team to respect but that is all.

As for the other groups, the two best teams in the world could not have been dealt more contrasting hands for the World Cup finals. The draw was kind to France but almost unbelievably unkind to Argentina.

France kick it all off by playing Senegal in the opening match in Seoul and, frankly, I do not see any other outcome than France finishing top of the group. After all, Zinedine Zidane is the finest player in the world.

Even the pressure of the opening match has been eased because Senegal are new to the World Cup and one of the weakest teams. Also, the Senegalese players come from French clubs so they will not have even the element of surprise.

Second place in Group A is between Uruguay and Denmark. Uruguay are erratic and only just scraped into the finals, while Denmark are rebuilding now the Laudrup brothers have retired. Their meeting could be decisive. Just to increase the pressure, it's also their first match. Denmark beat Uruguay 6-1 in Mexico in 1986. I do not expect a repeat.

Group B underlines my general impression that the draw was kind to the Latin nations. Spain and Paraguay are my favourites. Spain usually come to the World Cup with high hopes and then fail miserably. Outstanding players such as Raul should put an end to all that.

Luck of the draw...Pele and FIFA general secretary Michel Zen-Ruffinen

'I couldn't believe our luck. Playing against Turkey, China and Costa Rica is as close to "easy" as it gets at a World Cup'

Slovenia and South Africa are useful teams but neither are as gifted individually as Paraguay. Also, South Africa were new at France 98 and Slovenia were new at Euro 2000. Winning matches at a World Cup needs experience, not only among the players, but among the officials and support staff. I'm not sure Slovenia and South Africa have enough.

Group D will attract a lot of attention because of the co-hosts, South Korea. But Portugal are my favourites to win it. They could go all the way to the last four. I enjoy their football. Technically they are in a class of their own in Europe and Luis Figo is outstanding. It's hard to believe they have achieved nothing at the World Cup since they were third when I was playing against them back in 1966.

Poland were excellent in qualifying but their new generation of players has no World Cup pedigree, so the United States could be one of the surprise teams. They have a number of interesting young players – children of the fans I was trying to inspire when I played for New York Cosmos in the 1970s.

Home advantage can help South Korea. Traditional powers like Brazil, Italy or Germany find home advantage a problem because their fans expect them to win. But in Korea it's different. Their fans do not expect them to win the World Cup, just to do as well as possible. That is much more positive.

Group E has Germany, who remind me of Brazil. Germany also struggled to qualify but, like Brazil, they can use the next six months to improve their team and tactics. Germany are one of the most experienced nations when it comes to preparing a World Cup campaign. I expect them to do well.

I cannot say the same about the Republic of Ireland. They have almost a new team since they were last in the finals in 1994 and nobody knows what to expect from them – apart from the presence of their wonderful supporters.

Cameroon are Olympic champions, which reflects their ability to rise to the occasion; the same cannot be said for Saudi Arabia. They also had to change coach towards the end of qualifying. That is not a good sign.

Group F is the hardest, with Argentina, Nigeria, England and Sweden. The Nigerian coach, Amodu Shaibu, called it the Zone of Death. I sympathise with him.

Argentina were the best team in the qualifying competition. They have a settled squad of around 25 players. Most are based in Europe but that has not been a problem for Argentina the way it was for Brazil. We were always bringing back different players but Argentina used the same ones so they had no problems adjusting.

Nigeria are one of the best African teams and will use many of the players who won the Olympic gold medal in 1996. As for Sweden, they were one of the first European nations to qualify, and I am curious to see if Henrik Larsson, who scores so many goals in Scottish football with Celtic, can do the same at international level.

England are the toughest threat to Argentina and not just because of the effect of the history between the teams. I believe England have the potential to win the World Cup or at least reach the Final.

They have improved so much since

Sven Goran Eriksson became coach at the start of the year. England used to be afraid to play football. They would get up to the penalty area and then, instead of trying to play their way to goal, they would cross the ball and lose possession. Now there is more patience and players such as Michael Owen and David Beckham could be among the stars of the finals. I like Owen, in particular. He is not just a goalscorer now but an all-round attacker who demands the full-time attention of at least two defenders.

Group G will be won by Italy, no question. I was surprised at the draw that hardly anybody talked about Italy. But that is when they are at their most dangerous. Look at their World Cup record. They were the first European nation to win it three times and they can beat anyone; they also have a wonderful player in Francesco Totti.

I am sorry that Mexico and Ecuador, also in Group G, may be two Latin teams who do not qualify for the second round. Italy are tough but so are Croatia. Finishing third in France on their first appearance in the finals was a warning for the rest of the world – and for Ecuador and Mexico in particular. Ecuador played some beautiful football but qualifying was their great achievement. They will have to be satisfied with that.

Group H matches the other co-hosts, Japan, with Belgium, Russia and Tunisia. For me, Japan have better prospects of reaching the second round than Korea. Belgium and Russia are solid and well-organised but lack the flair you need to make a splash at the World Cup. Tunisia may prove to be one of the weakest of the African teams.

Japan are learning all the time. Their coach, Philippe Troussier, has World Cup finals experience with South Africa and an excellent playmaker in Hidetoshi Nakata. But it worries me to be asked constantly about their other individuals. Football is not about one or two or three star players. One individual action can make an occasional difference but it's impossible every 90 minutes.

The Japanese must not think too far ahead and concentrate on reaching the second round. After all, even that, for Japan, would be football history.

Pele is the World Cup spokesman for official sponsor MasterCard.

2002 WORLD CUP FINALS – THE DRAW

GROUP A
FRANCE / SENEGAL / URUGUAY / DENMARK

FIXTURES

May 31	France v Senegal	Seoul, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
June 1	Uruguay v Denmark	Ulsan, 18.00 (10.00 BST)
June 6	Denmark v Senegal	Daegu, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
June 6	France v Uruguay	Busan, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
June 11	Denmark v France	Incheon, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
June 11	Senegal v Uruguay	Suwon, 15.30 (07.30 BST)

GROUP B
SPAIN / SLOVENIA / PARAGUAY / SOUTH AFRICA

FIXTURES

June 2	Paraguay v South Africa	Busan, 16.30 (08.30 BST)
June 2	Spain v Slovenia	Gwangju, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
June 7	Spain v Paraguay	Jeonju, 18.00 (10.00 BST)
June 8	South Africa v Slovenia	Daegu, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
June 12	South Africa v Spain	Daejeon, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
June 12	Slovenia v Paraguay	Seogwipo, 20.30 (12.30 BST)

GROUP C
BRAZIL / TURKEY / CHINA / COSTA RICA

FIXTURES

June 3	Brazil v Turkey	Ulsan, 18.00 (10.00 BST)
June 4	China v Costa Rica	Gwangju, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
June 8	Brazil v China	Seogwipo, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
June 9	Costa Rica v Turkey	Incheon, 18.00 (10.00 BST)
June 13	Costa Rica v Brazil	Suwon, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
June 13	Turkey v China	Seoul, 15.30 (07.30 BST)

GROUP D
SOUTH KOREA / POLAND / UNITED STATES / PORTUGAL

FIXTURES

June 4	South Korea v Poland	Busan, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
June 5	United States v Portugal	Suwon, 18.00 (10.00 BST)
June 10	South Korea v United States	Daegu, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
June 10	Portugal v Poland	Jeonju, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
June 14	Portugal v South Korea	Incheon, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
June 14	Poland v United States	Daejeon, 20.30 (12.30 BST)

GROUP E
GERMANY / SAUDI ARABIA / REP IRELAND / CAMEROON

FIXTURES

June 1	Rep Ireland v Cameroon	Niigata, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
June 1	Germany v Saudi Arabia	Sapporo, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
June 5	Germany v Rep Ireland	Ibaraki, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
June 6	Cameroon v Saudi Arabia	Saitama, 18.00 (10.00 BST)
June 11	Cameroon v Germany	Shizuoka, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
June 11	Saudi Arabia v Rep Ireland	Yokohama, 20.30 (12.30 BST)

GROUP F
ARGENTINA / NIGERIA / ENGLAND / SWEDEN

FIXTURES

June 2	Argentina v Nigeria	Ibaraki, 14.30 (06.30 BST)
June 2	England v Sweden	Saitama, 18.30 (10.30 BST)
June 7	Sweden v Nigeria	Kobe, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
June 7	Argentina v England	Sapporo, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
June 12	Sweden v Argentina	Miyagi, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
June 12	Nigeria v England	Osaka, 15.30 (07.30 BST)

GROUP G
ITALY / ECUADOR / CROATIA / MEXICO

FIXTURES

June 3	Croatia v Mexico	Niigata, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
June 3	Italy v Ecuador	Sapporo, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
June 8	Italy v Croatia	Ibaraki, 18.00 (10.00 BST)
June 9	Mexico v Ecuador	Miyagi, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
June 13	Mexico v Italy	Oita, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
June 13	Ecuador v Croatia	Yokohama, 20.30 (12.30 BST)

GROUP H
JAPAN / BELGIUM / RUSSIA / TUNISIA

FIXTURES

June 4	Japan v Belgium	Saitama, 18.00 (10.00 BST)
June 5	Russia v Tunisia	Kobe, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
June 9	Japan v Russia	Yokohama, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
June 10	Tunisia v Belgium	Oita, 18.00 (10.00 BST)
June 14	Tunisia v Japan	Osaka, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
June 14	Belgium v Russia	Shizuoka, 15.30 (07.30 BST)

SECOND ROUND

1: June 15	1st E v 2nd B	Seogwipo, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
2: June 15	1st A v 2nd F	Niigata, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
3: June 16	1st F v 2nd A	Oita, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
4: June 16	1st B v 2nd E	Suwon, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
5: June 17	1st G v 2nd D	Jeonju, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
6: June 17	1st C v 2nd H	Kobe, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
7: June 18	1st H v 2nd C	Miyagi, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
8: June 18	1st D v 2nd G	Daejeon, 20.30 (12.30 BST)

QUARTER-FINALS

A: June 21	winners 2 v winners 6	Shizuoka, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
B: June 21	winners 1 v winners 5	Ulsan, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
C: June 22	winners 4 v winners 8	Gwangju, 15.30 (07.30 BST)
D: June 22	winners 3 v winners 7	Osaka, 20.30 (12.30 BST)

SEMI-FINALS

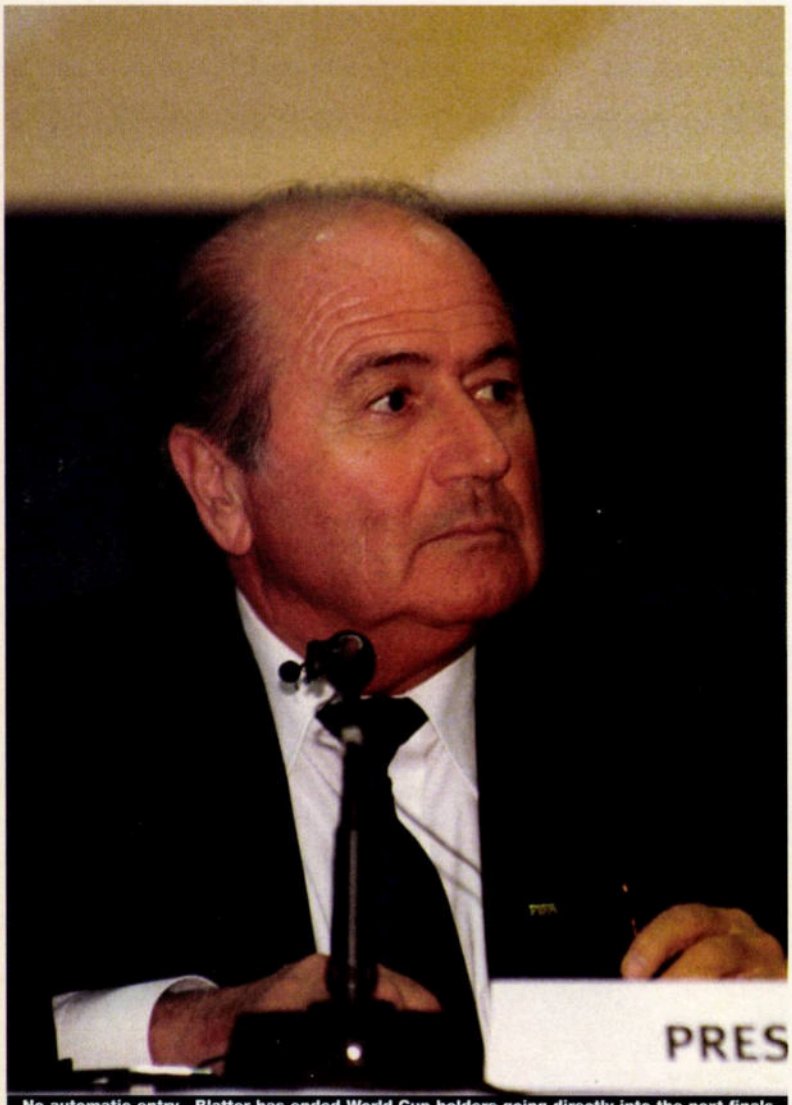
June 25	winners B v winners C	Seoul, 20.30 (12.30 BST)
June 26	winners A v winners D	Saitama, 20.30 (12.30 BST)

3RD-PLACE PLAY-OFF

June 29	Daegu, 20.00 (12.00 BST)

FINAL

June 30	Yokohama, 20.00 (12.00 BST)



No automatic entry...Blatter has ended World Cup holders going directly into the next finals

President decrees that World Cup winner takes nothing

Bounced out by Blatter

FRANCE will have only themselves to blame if they win the World Cup again and are then beaten in the qualifiers for 2006. The bad-tempered wrangling over their friendly against Australia was the last straw that propelled FIFA into scrapping the holders' right to automatic entry to the next finals tournament.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter, who had bounced the proposal on his executive on the eve of the draw, said: "This had become an anomaly. It is the only national team competition in which the holders had this right and it had become too complicated to maintain."

Pele suggested FIFA should have allowed the holders the discretion. He says: "Some coaches like to be sure of being in the finals, but others don't feel they can prepare their team properly unless they are playing competitive matches."

In fact, the coach would not have much say. I doubt whether, for example, English FA chief executive Adam Crozier, casting an eye over the accounts, would want national coach Sven Goran Eriksson to put a guaranteed several million pounds at risk in the World Cup qualifiers.

Another piece of football tradition chipped away, then.

Kirch has the last laugh

AT LAST Leo Kirch can afford to smile. European television's dominoes are falling around their own ears.

The rapid approach of the World Cup finals concentrated commercial minds wonderfully. All of a sudden just about all mainstream western Europe (with the exception of Italy) has signed up to Kirch's megabucks coverage contracts.

The Kirch group has had to compromise on price and on its initial reluctance to link deals for 2002 and 2006. In the end, however, even the German TV mogul had to accept the market price based on both tournaments.

Kirch had paid FIFA around £500million for European TV rights for the 2002 finals. That was nine times the sum the now defunct and disgraced ISL had paid for the 1998 tournament.

First, terrestrial channels ARD and ZDF sorted out a two-tournament deal, then BBC and ITV settled on £171m for 2002 and 2006. Next came TF1 of France, agreeing a £101m deal for all the 2002 finals and 24 matches at 2006, with an option to buy the rest.

TF1 was the only French channel that could afford to fund the deal. Charles Bietry of France Television described the sum agreed as his entire sports budget for a year.

TF1 will farm out some of the 2002 matches to LCI and Eurosport – which provoked the wrath of Culture Minister Catherine Tasca and European commissioner Viviane Reding. Clearly, Tasca would like to be able to implement a French version of the British listed-events regulation, while Reding thinks FIFA is being greedy when its greatest concern should be promoting football through making World Cup coverage as accessible as possible to as many viewers as possible.

Not that FIFA should be singled out. French television companies pay out around £300m per year without counting World Cups and European Championships. In the meantime, TF1 is hunting a major programme sponsor to underwrite its World Cup gamble.

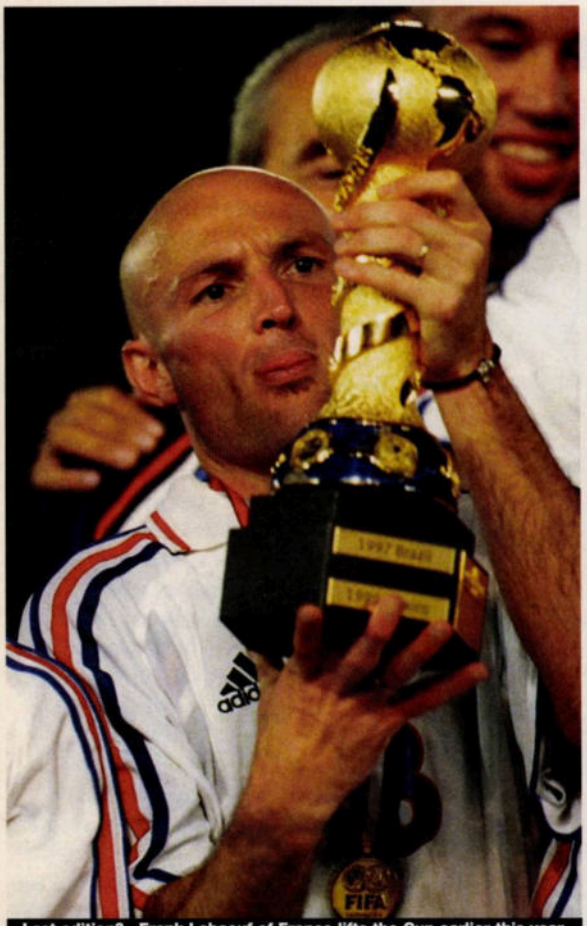
Pusan becomes Busan

PUSAN or Busan? VIPs, media and officials arriving for the World Cup draw were confused to find the name of the city changing. By unhappy coincidence, South Korea has chosen this year to introduce a new roman alphabet pronounciation system.

Thus the map of the country is being rewritten, apart from the capital, Seoul. Kwangju has become Gwangju, Chonju has become Jeonju, Taegu has turned into Daegu, and Taejon is now known as Daejeon. The new airport at Seoul is no longer Inchon but Incheon.

The government-funded Korean Language Research Committee has been beavering away for the best part of a decade on a modern standard to replace the original 1930s version. For the past six months, local and national government has been busy changing road signs, rail station names and official documents.

Too late for Mother Nature and the World Cup draw, however. A floral display at the airport blossomed out as 'Welcome to Pusan.'


Last edition?...Frank Leboeuf of France lifts the Cup earlier this year

Confederations Cup: no place to go

THE Confederations Cup is in its death throes and not before time. This sorry apology of a miserable, misplaced and misbegotten excuse of a marketing exercise is likely to be given the chop next March.

When FIFA decided to postpone this year's World Club Championship until 2003 it had overlooked the fact that the co-ordinated international calendar comes into effect that year – with the World Under-17s in Finland, World Youth Cup in the United Arab Emirates and Women's World Cup in China already factored in…plus the Confederations Cup.

Now FIFA has been caught out by its own calendar. There is no room for both World Club Championship and Confederations Cup. Something has to go. Given FIFA's interest in cosying up to the clubs, the solution appears obvious – and long overdue.

Other executive decisions:

- Advertising is to be permitted on referees' kit in club competitions at both national and international level but only on sleeves and excluding tobacco and alcohol advertising. All revenues must be allocated to refereeing development funds.
- All discussion about FIFA's finances was postponed until an extraordinary executive meeting on December 18 after the committee ran out of time in Busan.
- FIFA is signing up to the IOC's anti-doping convention on the contradictory condition that it will not be enforced in football (what cynics are calling the Nandrolone Charter).

No show for North Korea

EVEN South Korea is starting to give up hope that North Korea will take any part in next year's finals.

One of the ambitions of South Korean federation president Chung Mong-joon had been to use the World Cup finals as a means towards a political rapprochement with the North. So far, all offers have been rebuffed or ignored.

A South Korean federation spokesman said: "It is starting to look hopeless. Time is running out and the opportunity will not come again."

Initially, Chung had suggested – with FIFA approval – that the North might host several first-round matches. This is now history.

Chung's last offer will be to raise the prospect of North Korean players joining the South Korean national squad. This would need special dispensation from FIFA, although he has already obtained tacit approval again.

Chung said: "We will discuss the possibility when president Blatter and I visit North Korea early next year."

The *Korea Herald* recently described inter-Korean relations as at their lowest ebb since the landmark summit of June last year.

Busan bullets

MICHEL PLATINI has a long memory for World Cup rights and wrongs, short-sighted referees and linesmen. Also painful memories of playing against (West) Germany, to whom France lost in the semi-finals in both 1982 and 1986. Just as a caution to anyone foolish enough to write off Germany on the strength of an erratic qualifying campaign, Platini grumbled: "You have to beat them 5-0 to even get to a penalty shoot-out."

SVEN GORAN ERIKSSON will need his birthday cards on February 5 (when he will be 54) not on May 2, as suggested by the official FIFA World Cup website, nor, for that matter, on February 9, as suggested by the *Annuario del Calcio Mondiale*. How can we be sure both are wrong? Because his assistant, Tord Grip, says so, and if anyone knows Eriksson's correct birth date (apart from Eriksson, obviously), then Grip is the man.

Grounded by Germany...Michel Platini

KOREAN security officials took no chances at the World Cup draw. Some 1,700 officers were stationed at key posts, metal detectors and police dogs were on standby, while commando units shadowed VIPs to thwart any terrorist attacks. In such circumstances, launching an Official World Cup song entitled 'Boom' seemed tastelessly inappropriate. No offence to Anastacia, of course. By the way, it is whispered that a FIFA executive asked if she were related to the Russian royal family.

PELE'S inclusion in the line-up of personality assistants for the draw was a sort of vote of confidence as he tried to fight off allegations of business impropriety.

Explosive material...Anastacia

The three-times World Cup winner has been embroiled in controversy over the cancellation of a UNICEF charity function in Argentina in 1995. Brazilian newspapers have claimed Pele Sports & Marketing did not refund a £500,000 deposit to meet expenditure.

In fact, the United Nations' children's fund has denied ever having paid out £500,000 up front, but Pele, even so, has demanded the winding up of Pele Sports & Marketing and begun legal proceedings against former partner Helio Viana.

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

'The World Cup, the FIFA presidency and me'

Chung Mong-joon, co-chairman of South Korea's World Cup organising committee, tells Gavin Hamilton about his plans for the 2002 finals – and beyond

What do you hope will be the legacy of this World Cup for Korea?
As you know we are building 10 new stadia. I think it's the first time in the history of the World Cup that an organiser has built so many new stadia. I hope this is our investment for the future, not only for football. I understand that the 1982 World Cup in Spain and the 1998 World Cup in France produced reconciliation among their own people. Spain was haunted by the long legacy of the Franco regime with different ethnic groups and different languages. But the Spanish World Cup succeeded in bringing its people together. It was the same in 1998, when the French newspaper *Le Monde* wrote that the World Cup had made the French think about the country first before individuals. That's the sort of legacy the World Cup can deliver. We hope the World Cup can help restore the Korean people's confidence in their future.

And what of the World Cup's influence on your relationship with your co-hosts, Japan?
We are hoping the World Cup can bring South Koreans together, North and South Koreans together, and Japanese and Koreans together. In terms of the Korea-Japan relationship, the World Cup is the best opportunity to bring us together through what we call the World Cup bridge. However, it has never been a guarantee, it was simply an opportunity. Whether we can realise that opportunity or not depends upon all our efforts. So it is a rather fragile opportunity and I am worried that it is not being utilised to its full extent because of several issues that have arisen. However, it does not mean that the World Cup will be overshadowed by this. Nothing can overshadow the World Cup.

You wrote a book recently, which was published only in Japan, entitled *What I Want to Tell the Japanese*. What was its purpose?
This is not a pleasant memory, but Korea was under Japanese colonial rule and Japan ruled Korea through the military and their rule was very brutal. Older Koreans have strong memories of the colonial period and you can imagine the bitter feeling they hold in their hearts towards Japan. The younger generation, like myself, don't have any memory of this. We don't really understand Japan at all. Many Koreans go abroad to study, but they go mainly to the United States or Europe, only a few go to Japan.

Whether we like it or not, Japan is our closest neighbour, so we have to work to improve the relations. I wrote my PhD dissertation on Japan at the Johns Hopkins University in the United States, and while my knowledge of Japan may not be profound, I am a student of Japan and I want to remain a student of Japan.

A leading Japanese newspaper proposed extensive interviews with me over three years as material for a book, so I said yes. I'm very glad to have written it. Half of the book is about political and economic relations between the two countries and the other half is the story of the World Cup bidding process. Perhaps I should get it translated into English!

Main prize...Chung holds the World Cup trophy at the draw in Busan

'Since football originated in Asia, it may be very natural to have an Asian FIFA president in the near future'

There definitely seems to be a competitiveness between Japan and Korea over the co-hosting. Is there a danger that this will outweigh the co-operation?
It's like the two sides of a coin. What seems like competition to some people is actually co-operation to others. Frankly speaking, some Koreans think Japan is an economic superpower and they may feel emotionally burdened that we are staging a tournament with Japan. Japan is well known for its orderliness, cleanliness and kindness, so some people say Korea will be looked on unfavourably by the comparison. But I don't think that way. This is a good opportunity and we expect a huge influx of people during World Cup year; I hope they have a pleasant stay in Korea.

You mentioned reconciliation. Is North Korea no longer part of the World Cup story?
FIFA offered North Korea an opportunity, but the deadline [December 1] has now past. But I still hope to visit North Korea, together with Sepp Blatter.

I am interested in your motivation for becoming involved in football and FIFA. You come from a very wealthy family, you could have chosen an easier, more comfortable path, but you have taken on more difficult challenges. Why?
That's a very interesting perspective; when you say a comfortable…

…I mean a life away from the spotlight, concentrating on your family business.
It's difficult but at the same time I feel very comfortable. I find myself very fortunate that I am working for football. I love to watch football, I love to play football. One of my brothers is president of the Korean baseball association and I was at the Olympics to watch the Korean baseball team win the bronze medal. I'm a sports fan, I love to play sports myself. I've suffered fractured bones five times, including shattering my shoulder downhill skiing. Downhill is very fast and furious. They say it helps to be a little crazy!

As a vice-president of FIFA, how do you feel about the problems of ISL. Has FIFA handled that well?
The collapse of ISL was rather unexpected. The problem was not the collapse itself, but the stories reported by the media after it happened. I feel we need an investigation into those revelations. I hope FIFA can maintain our integrity. To do so, we must prove those revelations are irrelevant. And in order to prove whether they are or not, we need an investigation.

At what level would this investigation be carried out?
That's a matter that has to be discussed within FIFA. But it's a serious and very important matter to FIFA.

Between now and the end of May, what are the greatest challenges remaining in the preparations?
Transportation between the two countries, because the demand for transport will be very big, and accommodation in Korea. We have to prepare comfortable and affordable accommodation. And then security. I hope the current situation dies down early next year so that we can produce a message of peace and reconciliation to the whole world.

The problems of transport, can they be overcome?
Well, we need more flights between the two countries, and it's a rather easy time to do that because there are more planes on the ground!

Will there ever be an Asian president of FIFA?
That's a good idea. Do you know that it was in China that football originated? I reminded everybody in FIFA about that, and we agreed to have a celebration in China in 2004 to celebrate FIFA's centenary. Since football originated in Asia, it may be very natural to have an Asian FIFA president in the near future.

And could that be you?
It could be me. It could be Okano from Japan, it could be one of the sheikhs from the Middle East! Why not?

So you have considered it?
Yes, I have to be prepared for that. Not necessarily me, but Asians should be prepared for it.

You have also been mentioned as a future state president of Korea. Is that something you would consider running for?
That's a very flattering comment. If the opportunity arises, I will not try to evade it, but I don't want to seek public office. We have a saying: Public office and death are the same thing. If it comes to you, it is foolish to try to ignore it, but it is more foolish to pursue it.

When you look back at the whole bidding process, the planning and the organisation, what has been the greatest achievement?
This has been my greatest challenge. Japan established their World Cup bidding operation five years before us. Then when I became head of the Korean FA, I thought we should take part in the bidding because we are the strongest football nation in Asia. We may have lost but we had to participate.

It was not easy to persuade people to support the bid because people had already thought we had lost. [Then FIFA president] Havelange was close to Japan, several FIFA sponsors were Japanese and half of ISL was owned by a Japanese company at the time.

The second difficult challenge was that after the co-hosting decision had been made we experienced a foreign currency shortage. I had to persuade people, including new state president Kim Dae-jung, to go ahead with the building of the new stadium in Seoul.

The last challenge is the performance of the Korean national team in next year's tournament. For that, I hope, wish and pray!

Will it be a bitter blow if Korea do not make the second round?
At the moment, I am not thinking about it.

Who will win the World Cup?
Well, at the press conference for the FIFA stadia inspection committee, [FIFA vice-president] Antonio Matarrese said that the Final will be between his country, Italy, and Korea. I hope so!

NEXT MONTH

The World Cup countdown begins in earnest with the first of our 52-page booklets on the finalists... FREE with World Soccer

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FEBRUARY ISSUE ON SALE JANUARY 18

Open for action...Seoul's new World Cup stadium

Ready for the world

Gavin Hamilton reports from Seoul on the opening of the new World Cup stadium, venue for the tournament's Opening Match

THE KOREANS are rightly proud of their new World Cup stadium in Seoul, which was opened officially last month, when South Korea beat Croatia 2-0 in a prestige friendly.

The Koreans had a perfectly good venue in Seoul already. But the Olympic stadium, built for the 1988 Games, had a running track and the Koreans wanted a football-only arena for their showcase event of the 2002 finals, the Opening Match on May 31.

So, despite the economic downturn that has affected the global economy and hit the Asian economies in particular, the Korean government dug deep to find the money.

Still, with construction costs of £108million, it cost less than the £120m lottery grant that the English FA received to purchase Wembley.

It has been money very well spent.

The sleek, clean design is reminiscent of the Stade de France. Yet the slightly smaller capacity means everybody is closer to the pitch than in Paris. Transport links are excellent; a 20-minute subway ride takes you from the city centre to a new station just 50 yards from the stadium.

Nor is the futuristic arena short on symbolism. The magnificent roof, shaped in the form of traditional kites and sailboats, pays homage to the history of the Han River, which forms part of the border between South and North Korea.

> 'The £108m construction costs, less than the £120m the English FA received to purchase Wembley, has been money very well spent'

Inside, the sightlines are outstanding from all areas of the stadium. The giant neon scoreboards, complete with volume indicators to show levels of crowd noise, are a reminder of the high-tech expertise that has gone into the stadium's planning and execution.

Even the Croatians failed to spoil the opening party. Germany had originally been invited, but defeat by England in Munich and a play-off date with Ukraine changed all that.

Croatia sent a weakened squad, with no Boksic, no Prosinecki, no Tudor. But the Koreans were also without their four Japan-based players, whose J.League clubs had declined to release them, not even for this high-profile friendly.

It was two youngsters, Lee Chun-soo and Anderlecht's Seol Ki-hyeon, who impressed most as Korea scored twice in quick succession midway through the second half.

The Koreans were keen to show how seriously they are taking stadium security. The presence of state president Kim Dae-jung at the opening ceremony only added to the workload of the armed police and secret service agents who patrolled the stadium perimeters. There were airport-style checks for all press entering the stadium, with laptops and luggage all subject to the attentions of sniffer dogs.

After the events of September 11, security is a huge concern for the finals. No-fly zones will be in operation around stadiums on matchdays, but officials from the Korean Organising Committee (KOWOC) admitted that the World Cup will not be covered by insurance in the event of terrorist attacks.

Following the withdrawal by French insurance company AXA, FIFA has agreed a new policy which will cover the tournament in the event of cancellation. But local organising committees will have to foot the bill if terrorists strike.

Other remaining concerns for the organisers include flights between Korea and Japan. The current total of 360 weekly flights will be increased to 470, but KOWOC is looking to raise that number further.

One contentious issue remains the matter of dogmeat. A letter from Sepp Blatter to Korea FA president and KOWOC co-chairman Chung Mong-joon, in which Blatter called on the Koreans to ban the sale of dogmeat for the duration of the World Cup, was released to the press. The move upset the Koreans, who felt that they were being picked on. Privately, officials were quick to point out that FIFA had not challenged the Japanese in the same way over whalemeat.

Tensions with the Japanese are never far from the surface, even when it comes to stadium capacities. The Koreans were falling over themselves to point out the size of the Seoul stadium.

Figures for the official capacity vary, depending on who you ask. KOWOC officials say 64,640, the new FIFA World Cup website (fifaworldcup.com) says 63,961, while the stadium architects say 64,677.

All three figures, the Koreans delight in pointing out, are bigger than Japan's Saitama 63,700-capacity stadium. Which makes the Seoul arena the largest football-only venue in Asia.

It's going to be that sort of World Cup.

Uruguay – finalists No 32

Eric Weil sees the South Americans become the last team to make it to Korea/Japan

URUGUAY became the final qualifiers for next year's World Cup finals – after missing out on 1994 and 1998 – by beating Australia 3-1 on aggregate over a two-leg play-off. But the 3-0 victory in the second leg, in front of 65,000 fans at Montevideo's Centenario stadium, the scene of the very first World Cup in 1930, was not as easy as it looked.

Uruguay dominated for most of the match against an over-physical Australia, for whom only Harry Kewell shone. But the home team had an anxious time in the second half. With Uruguay leading 2-0, Australia threatened to score the goal that would have put them through on away goals.

Richard Morales – twice jailed within the last year following fighting after last season's Penarol-Nacional clash and later in a night club – was the hero when he made sure with his second goal in the last minute. Dario Silva – only 12 days after dislocating his shoulder in the final qualifying group game against Argentina – had opened the scoring in the 14th minute.

Uruguay had not scored as many as three goals in an international for 14 months, often playing defensively and with only one striker. Coach Victor Pua, who took over from Daniel Passarella halfway through the qualifying campaign, summed it up by saying: "We functioned better as a team, opened up the field and had more chances."

But Pua, whose contract ended with the qualifying campaign, may not take the team to the World Cup and refused to speak about the future. He has not got on well with some of the players, and Tenfield (the firm that virtually runs Uruguayan soccer under agent Paco Casal) wants Pua to return to his former job as junior team coach.

Australia had earlier asked FIFA for the match to be transferred to a neutral venue because of the hostile reception the team had received on arrival at Montevideo airport. The hostile climate also prompted an Australian official to suggest sending an Australian cook to Uruguay to avoid possible food poisoning, which Uruguayan officials took as an insult.

But, with a big police presence, there were no problems during the match.

For Australia, the result was a desperate disappointment. In the first leg, watched by a crowd of 84,646 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the Aussies had dominated possession, winning seven corners in a scoreless first half. Yet Uruguay looked just as likely to break the deadlock via one of several quick counter-attacks.

Mayhem in Montevideo...Uruguay players celebrate their play-off victory over Australia

Kewell caused greatest anxiety to the visitors and it was he who initiated the game's lone goal after 78 minutes; Paul Agostino was upended in the penalty area while controlling the Leeds United midfielder's cross and Kevin Muscat blasted the resultant penalty home.

A one-goal advantage was always going to be extremely difficult to defend in Montevideo and the Socceroos must now wait another four years.

In the meantime, there will be growing pressure for Oceania to be awarded an automatic qualifying position by FIFA.

● After the European play-offs, all the losing coaches either resigned or looked set to quit. Gheorghe Hagi of Romania, Austria's Otto Baric and Czech Republic coach Jozef Chovanec all tendered their resignations after losing out in November's two-leg deciders, while Ukraine boss Valerii Lobanovskyi faced renewed calls to choose between his club, Kyiv Dynamo, or country.

'We functioned better as a team, opened up the field and had more chances' – *Uruguay coach Victor Pua*

The most dramatic result of the play-offs was in Bucharest, where Romania were expected to overturn Slovenia's 2-1 lead from the first leg. Instead, the Slovenes scored through Mladen Rudonja and then held out, despite conceding a late goal, to qualify for their first World Cup finals.

In the Europe-Asia play-off between the Republic of Ireland and Iran, the Irish qualified for their third World Cup, their first major finals under coach Mick McCarthy, after beating Iran 2-1 on aggregate.

Goals from Ian Harte (penalty) and Robbie Keane in the first leg in Dublin gave McCarthy's men a two-goal lead to take to Tehran. The Iranians, who had beaten the United Arab Emirates in the Asian runners-up play-off, scored late in the game, but it was not enough.

Before the game, Iran's Croat coach Miroslav Blazevic had said – admittedly through an interpreter – that he would commit suicide if his side failed to qualify for the finals. He was later reported to be in talks about extending his contract.

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2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

Raul Gonzalez

Next May is a desperately important month for Spain's golden boy, says Keir Radnedge

RAUL, 24-year-old golden boy of Spanish football, is driven by a mixture of ambitions. May 31 marks the start of the World Cup in which he wants to help Spain throw off the painful memories of so many wasted dreams.

On the other hand, May also sees the Champions League Final in Glasgow where he wants to win Europe's premier club prize for a third time and help today's Madrid lay the ghost of Hampden 1960, which has haunted every Real team and player down the succeeding years. He believes nothing less than that would mark the club's centenary in appropriate fashion.

The legendary Madrid outfit of Alfredo Di Stefano and Ferenc Puskas thrashed Eintracht Frankfurt 7-3 at Hampden in May 1960 to win their fifth successive European crown in magical style. Their successors regained the European crown in 1966, 1998 and 2000. Raul was a member of the winning sides both against Juventus in 1998 in Amsterdam and against Valencia in the Stade de France in 2000. But to win in Hampden would be extra special.

'I've already won the Champions League twice, the Spanish League three times. The World Cup is the next target'

So much, so young...Raul

Isn't there a danger of complacency when you have won so much already, at such a young age?
Maybe that is true at other clubs but not at Real Madrid. It's the standard you set for yourself. It's like Brazil. When your fans have been used to their club winning everything they expect you to go on doing so. For example, we can win a match but if we don't play as well as the fans expect we still get criticised. If we don't get the results – as we haven't yet in the Spanish League this season – then the pressure is enormous. So, no – definitely no danger of complacency.

At your age most players are still trying to secure a first-team place. But you have been a fixture in the Madrid line-up for years. How have you managed it?
When you play for Madrid you mature in football terms much more quickly than anywhere else. It's because of what I talked about before: the pressure of expectation from fans, media and our own directors is intense.

How did you cope when you first came into the team at 17?
I was fortunate in having good team-mates who helped and encouraged me and shared their own experience with me. I watched, listened and learned quickly.

Is it true that Fernando Hierro, the club captain, said you were a Ferrari who would soon overtake everyone else?
It was one of the biggest compliments I've ever been paid – and all the more important because Fernando is probably the team-mate who has helped me most down the years, in good times and bad. He and Jorge Valdano, who was my first coach at Madrid, have been the most important influences on my career.

Zidane joined you at Madrid for a world record fee in the summer and has complained about people's unjust expectations. Can he overcome that?
Time will tell, obviously. But it's to be expected. Everyone wants to see him, touch him, get his autograph. That will ease off a little. It will also help that he has now found a house for his family. Just give him time. A season lasts a full nine months.

You could find yourself on opposite sides at the World Cup?
I'd like that. It's one of my greatest dreams, to do well in the World Cup. It's about time. Spain have never got the results they deserved at the World Cup. I don't know why. Bad luck at critical moments and a lack of confidence. Some teams have developed the knack of winning even when they play badly – France can do that, for example. We lost to them in the quarter-finals of the European Championship last year even though we were the better team on the day. Of course, I missed a penalty just before the end which would have taken the game to extra time. Nobody lets me forget it!

Can Spain win the World Cup?
Of course. I have already won the Champions League twice and the Spanish League three times. The World Cup is the next target. Realistically, there are only six or seven teams who could win it. With a little bit of luck we can go a long way and then, who knows? We qualified easily and our coach, Jose Camacho, is on top of the job. The team is a mixture of youth and experience. We enjoy playing together but we enjoy winning even more, of course.

That's what you need to do consistently with Real Madrid, isn't it? How do you explain a superb start in Europe and poor start in your own national championship?
It's not easy to start all over again after a great season like the last one, when we won the League. To win the big prizes you have to keep your head down, not get over-confident, and remember it's a team game. Then the results will come. We have the players and the qualities to put together another great season – right through to the middle of May.

Juan Sebastian Veron

Argentina's playmaker is talking to the press again, reports Eric Weil

ARGENTINA international Juan Sebastian Veron is on speaking terms with his country's press again after three years. He decided to break off relations with the Argentinian media when they started a rumour linking him to a positive drug test at his team's training camp during the 1998 World Cup. Now the Manchester United star feels he is more mature and hopes the local media are, too.

The general consensus seems to be that Argentina, one of the favourites to win the World Cup, depend too much on you.
I don't know. There isn't a Maradona in this team to whom you pass the ball and know that he is capable of deciding the match. So we look for support as a team. It doesn't depend on Veron, on Crespo or Ortega. There isn't one player to decide the match now.

But Manchester United have high hopes that you can emulate Eric Cantona.
I've only been with the team for a short time, so there is no chance for me to be compared with what Cantona has done for the club. He achieved so many things, so I would be happy to follow in his footsteps. I am playing well but from there to being one of the best players in the world – as some critics say – there's a long way to go. That is their opinion. I just try to do the best I can for my club and national team.

Well, if you are modest about yourself, what about your national team being World Cup favourites?
In spite of this, winning the World Cup still remains just a dream for us. I am proud of being part of this squad, which is working really hard to make it happen. We realise that we have done very well so far, but also know that it will not be an easy task. It doesn't affect us being made favourites. On the contrary, it's nice and it's an agreeable responsibility that this team has earned in the last few years, and I think this aspect will favour us. We are now admired by the soccer world, but we still have to be careful and this team remains with its feet firmly on the ground.

What is the difference between this squad and the one from the 1998 World Cup in which you also played?
Mainly the experience we have gained since then, which makes it stronger. This team is wiser and most of us bring our experience from also having played in the last World Cup. By the middle of next year most of us will be at the ideal ages of between 27 and 28 and will have played six to seven seasons regularly in Europe's strongest club sides. We are not afraid of playing anywhere against anybody and the team has obtained a real identity.

As you also played under Daniel Passarella, the previous national coach, how do you compare him with current coach Marcelo Bielsa?
Passarella gave Argentinian soccer a lot, both as player, national team captain and then its coach, and he is the one who got this team together in the first place. I think people are a bit unfair in their present opinion of him. Meanwhile, it is to Bielsa's credit that he kept pretty much the same squad, added more style to the team and gave this project definite form.

And talking of coaches, how about the comparison between Bielsa and Manchester United's Ferguson?
They are fairly alike in the way they handle things and always go out to win matches.

Has the move to England been a good thing?
In Italy you are under permanent pressure. There is a great deal of drama surrounding soccer and in consequence club officials and coaches are very concerned about avoiding defeat at all times. In England, I enjoy soccer more because they have another philosophy. Coaches still dare to play aggressively in all stadiums and players always go for victory. A good example was that game against Spurs in which we were 3-0 down and ended up winning 5-3. That happened because we carried on looking for goals. If that had been in Italy, the opposition would have locked their defence and we would never have got back into the game.

Central figure...Juan Sebastian Veron

'There isn't a Maradona in this Argentina side. So we look for support as a team'

Finally, do you feel you can still get better as a player?
I think I can. A player has no roof. To improve is a constant challenge.

When will we see the best of Veron?
Hopefully in the World Cup!

Would you like to play the World Cup today?
Of course, but there's still eight months to go and we mustn't ease up!

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

Yildiray Basturk

Young Turk making a big impression in Germany

TURKISH international playmaker Yildiray Basturk never needs much time to make an impact. After moving from VfL Bochum to Bayer Leverkusen last summer, he instantly enraptured his new fan-base with his brilliant dribbling and inventiveness. And though he played only 40-odd minutes in Turkey's 5-0 thumping of Austria in the second leg of the World Cup play-offs before hobbling off with a knock, his was still a major contribution to victory and qualification.

Born in Germany but a Turk of heart and roots, Basturk set the ball rolling for the Turks that night in Istanbul, pouncing on a loose Austrian pass and bursting into the box to open his team's account. He then crossed for Hakan Sukur to volley majestically home. Goodnight Vienna, hello Yildiray.

"The noise the Turkish supporters made when I scored was absolutely deafening," said Basturk. "I couldn't have picked a better time to score my first goal for the national team. Everyone is on a high now that Turkey are in the World Cup finals for the first time since 1954. But now the real serious stuff begins, and our chances of doing well have to be good. This side can certainly reach the knockout stages, and then anything is possible.

"But I cannot take it for granted that I will start out there. My ambition at the start of the season was to become a regular for Leverkusen and Turkey, and this I what I will keep working towards."

German-born sons of Turkish immigrants such as Bayern Munich midfield ace Mehmet Scholl and Fenerbahce defender Mustafa Dogan have opted to play for the *Nationalmannschaft*. So why did Basturk choose to fly the ancestral flag?

"You can't deny your background and family," he says. "I am a Turk and proud to be so. But it's also fair to say that I went with Turkey because they were quicker than the Germans. Turkey came in for me early by picking me for their Under-16 side."

How Germany could use a player of Basturk's calibre. From the start of his professional career at Bochum in the 1997-98 season, it was blindingly apparent that here was a special talent. The youngster not only had the same diminutive build of a Maradona or Zola, but a lot of their flair too, delighting VfL fans with his trickery, speed off the mark and exuberance.

Initially he tended to hold on to the ball too long. But in the disciplined world of German football, he learnt to cut out the showboating. Indeed, such was his development into a team player that he was appointed Bochum captain in 2000, becoming the youngest skipper in the history of the Bundesliga.

The Bochum-Basturk love affair came to an end last summer, however, with the club's relegation to the Second Division. Although he was most strongly linked with Hamburg and the Turkish Big Three, Galatasaray, Fenerbahce and Besiktas – the club he supported as a child – Bayer Leverkusen emerged from the pack to sign him for £4million. "I have a lot to thank Bochum for," says Basturk. "The club is a big family and I loved it; I grew up there. But with respect to them, it's a quite different game at Leverkusen. They suit my game so much more and I think I'll become a more complete footballer."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
Country Turkey
Born December 24, 1978, in Bochum
Previous clubs Spfr Wanne-Eickel (Ger), Wattenscheid 09 (Ger), VfL Bochum (Ger)
International debut January 1998, v Albania
International caps 10 (1 goal)

Wonder goal...Milan Osterc

Milan Osterc

Slovenia's play-off hero setting his sights on England

SLOVENIAN national team forward and World Cup hero Milan Osterc must believe confession is good for the soul.

After scoring the spectacular winner in the 2-1 defeat of Romania in the first leg of the World Cup play-offs, Osterc claimed he had intended to go for goal when letting fly from what appeared to be an impossible position out on the left. "I said I'd score and I did. It was the greatest and most important goal of my career."

But within days he was in the recanting business, admitting he had not been attempting a shot. "The ball was bouncing and running away from me very fast and I realised I had to strike it as quickly as I could. But I wasn't thinking about scoring," revealed Osterc, who plays his club football in Israel with Hapoel Tel Aviv.

"My aim was to put in a cross, but instead the ball flew over the keeper and into the far corner of the net. At first, I couldn't believe it. Nor could some of my team-mates. It was as if they had seen a miracle."

Not that anyone in Slovenia will be expecting Osterc to undertake some form of post-confessional penance. Intended or not, his goal will go down as one of the key moments in the play-off victory, which put them into the World Cup finals for the first time. Now, after a prolonged spell as national coach Srecko Katanec's favourite substitute, Osterc can feel confident of more time as a starter.

Osterc epitomised a Slovenian side that seemed to have a greater desire for victory than the Romanians. Throughout both legs, he never stopped toiling for the Slovenian cause. One moment he would be tormenting the Romanians in the air, the next he would be making a lung-bursting forward run, while he was always ready for his share of chasing back and closing down.

"Romania were technically better than us," said Osterc. "But we fought as if our lives depended on it and took our chances. It was as simple as that.

"It will hopefully be the same at the World Cup. We will be the underdogs, but we will have one of the most unified teams and one that can cause surprises. While we will want to revel in our first World Cup, we will want good results too."

Apart from that extraordinary effort against Romania, he was also on target in Slovenia's 2-1 World Cup qualifying win over Russia in September and in Hapoel's UEFA Cup ties with Chelsea and Lokomotiv

Inventive...Yildiray Basturk

Moscow. This purple patch has aroused considerable interest from teams in England – notably Manchester City – Germany, Italy and Spain.

"The offers are pouring in," he declared. "I have nothing against playing in other countries, but England is the most attractive to me because I prefer the style of play there."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr)
Country Slovenia
Born July 4, 1975, in Murska Sobota
Previous clubs NK Beltinci, HIT Gorica, Alicante (Spa), Olimpija Ljubljana
International debut September 1997, v Greece
International caps 38 (8 goals)

Michael Ballack

Leverkusen midfielder who came of age in the play-offs

GERMANY midfielder Michael Ballack will have settled several scores with his outstanding performances in both legs of his team's comprehensive World Cup 2002 play-off victory over Ukraine.

Over the past two years, the Bayer Leverkusen star had become one of the favourite targets of critics in Germany, being looked upon in some quarters as a luxury the national team could do without. No one doubted his immense talent, elegance and versatility – he once played libero and was likened to Franz Beckenbauer – but what caused concern was his attitude, an apparent unwillingness to go that extra yard in terms of effort.

Probably unfairly, he became the symbol of a Germany team that had lost their winning habit, and Lothar Matthaus was just one of a merciless band of former national team heroes to put the boot in. "Michael is happy when he has played well for half a season, and many other players think along the same lines," roared Matthaus earlier this year. "They have a good contract and are regulars for their clubs and the national team and think that is enough. Ballack has achieved nothing so far. He must work harder."

Ballack promptly labelled the Matthaus critique as "nonsense". But his response on the pitch has been far more eloquent. He has been truly magnificent this season for Leverkusen, scoring goals and running the midfield with abundant style and efficiency, while the fact that he was Germany's top marksman (six goals) on the road to Korea and Japan leaves little room for complaint.

Against Ukraine – unquestionably his best performances for Germany – Ballack showed why a host of Europe's top clubs are trailing him, with Bayern Munich the favourites to clinch the deal. Over the 180 minutes, he went through the full range of his impressive repertoire: the technical brilliance, the vision, the industry and, most crucially, the expertly-timed forward runs that brought him three goals – a tap-in and two far-post headers.

"There was enormous pressure on us to qualify," declared Ballack after Germany's 4-1 win in the second leg in Dortmund. "The disappointment would have been massive if we hadn't made it. But Rudi Voller's tactics worked perfectly and we showed we can play. It's been a long time since we put on such a good display.

"Things are going well for me at the moment. I'm pleased to have scored, that we won and that we are going to the World Cup finals. But no more than that. I know I must try to be more consistent."

Since helping Kaiserslautern win the 1997-98 Bundesliga crown in his first season as a professional, Ballack has experienced more lows than highs. He clashed with *Lauterer* coach Otto Rehhagel and left for Leverkusen amid much acrimony in the summer of 1999; scored an own goal as Leverkusen slumped to defeat at Unterhaching on the final weekend of the 1999-00 campaign, which cost them the German League title; and came under fire last term for a lack of presence from then Leverkusen boss Berti Vogts.

However, the signs this season are that he is maturing fast, and he is clearly benefiting from the faith placed in him by Voller and new Leverkusen coach Klaus Toppmoller.

"They have really given me the confidence I need," says Ballack. "Both of them have made me stronger mentally. My attitude is right. I feel good in myself and so I'm playing well.

"Leverkusen used to be criticised for not having the mentality of winners. So it's good that almost half the national team against Ukraine was made up of players from our club and we contributed to the good result. But above all, we were convincing as a team in the play-offs. We were focused on our goal of getting to the World Cup and we were all playing for Germany.

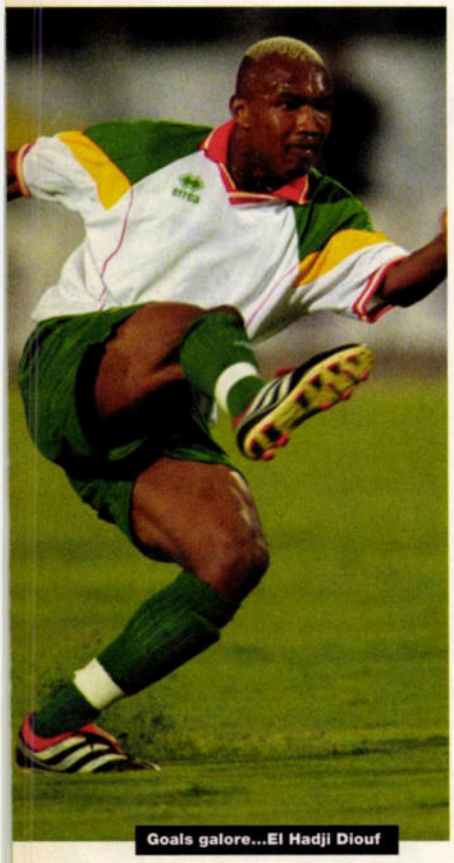
"It's great to be in the finals. There's nothing bigger in football. But we mustn't sit back. Now we must aim to improve still further."

Nick Bidwell

Maturing...Michael Ballack

Fact file

Club Bayer Leverkusen
Country Germany
Born September 26, 1976, in Chemnitz
Previous clubs BSG Motor Karl-Marx Stadt, Chemnitzer FC, Kaiserslautern
International debut April 1999, v Scotland
International caps 21 (6 goals)
Honours German League 1998 (Kaiserslautern)


Goals galore...El Hadji Diouf

El Hadji Diouf

Senegal's goal machine is ready to explode

SENEGALESE superstar-in-waiting El Hadji Diouf has a theory about his position of choice: "An attacker should be like a bomb, ready to explode at any moment in the penalty box. That's how you cause the maximum amount of damage."

Diouf should know: his eight goals in the last five World Cup qualifiers propelled Senegal to their first ever World Cup, after years of frustration and underachievement.

Hat-tricks in successive games against Algeria and Namibia, a key strike that eliminated Morocco from the tightest of qualification races, and a final-day goal – coupled with two assists – against Namibia were enough to send the Senegalese into raptures and establish Diouf's name as one of African football's brightest young stars.

Diouf is still only 20, but with 11 goals in as many international appearances he has a scoring record that many an established international star would be proud of.

Diouf has also made an explosive start to the season at his club side, Lens; his goals, dribbling skills and flamboyant nature have made him the firm favourite of the passionate Stade Bollaert fans.

Yet few among them hold much hope of hanging on to Diouf for much longer; the man with the dyed blond hair has repeatedly stated his ambition to move to one of Europe's biggest leagues. "My ambition is to play in England," he says. "I love the passion and the football they play there, and everyone tells me my style would be ideally suited to the Premiership."

Diouf will have a host of opportunities to announce himself to Premiership scouts this year, starting with the African Nations Cup in January and climaxing at the World Cup.

Diouf is confident of creating a good impression, as befits a man in such a rich vein of form and with such a golden future.

"I know I need to be more consistent, score at least 15 goals every season, but other than that I don't have too many technical problems," he says. "I aim to be voted the best player in the Nations Cup, and dream of being one of the top scorers in the World Cup."

If the Senegalese hitman pulls off this audacious double he would no doubt have some of the world's best clubs hammering on his door. More importantly, though, he would have done his country proud. "I am Senegalese through and through, and will do everything in my power to make Senegal a great footballing nation," he says. "To do this we need to win trophies, starting with the Nations Cup in Mali."

Agustin Delgado

Ecuador's qualifying hero who finished joint top of the South American scorers' list

THE idol of Ecuador's first World Cup qualification, his head on posters all around the country, is known simply as 'El Tin'.

This, though, is a tin man with a heart. Agustin Delgado acknowledges the importance of Ecuador's achievement with the hope that "it raises the spirits of a country which has only been receiving bad news".

Now the money is rolling in from endorsement deals, as companies look to associate themselves with the success of the national team. Delgado makes sure some of the proceeds are ploughed back into a foundation he has in Juncal, his home town in Ecuador's poverty-stricken Valle del Chota.

He has come a long way from such humble origins; to top-class football in Mexico and now across the Atlantic to the Premiership with Southampton.

"I feel I've grown as a person," he says. "But I haven't changed who I am. I'm quiet with those I don't know, and talkative with those who offer their friendship."

There is no sign of shyness in front of goal. The joint top scorer of South America's World Cup qualifiers was responsible for nine of Ecuador's 23 goals, and was often involved in the build-up to the others.

Delgado had truly emerged as an international centre-forward when he scored twice at home to Uruguay in the France 98 qualifying campaign. In November all of Ecuador hoped he would be on target once more against the same opposition.

A 10th goal would put him clear of Argentina's Hernan Crespo as the continent's top scorer and, more importantly, could put Ecuador through to Japan and South Korea.

In the event the vital goal was not his, but his contribution was just as critical as all the times he had hit the target. Defying a knee problem, he ran into space, held up the ball and provided the platform for Alex Aguinaga's cross, which Ivan Kaviedes headed into the net.

Delgado's gangling build can lull defenders into thinking he is nothing more than a target man. But the World Cup qualifiers tell a different story – one of an all-round striker who, in addition to his aerial threat, is a precise finisher off either foot.

Four of his nine goals were scored with his head, three with his left foot and two with his right. They came in all shapes and sizes: glancing headers off crosses from deep and bullet headers on balls pulled back from the byline, first-time volleys, close-range tap-ins and, his personal favourite, the injury-time winner away to Peru, when he outpaced the defence and rounded the keeper to clinch three vital points.

Ecuador coach Hernan Dario Gomez defines Delgado as a striker "who takes correct decisions in difficult moments".

Time and again in qualifying, Delgado's goals changed the course of games. Now Ecuador's hope is that 'El Tin' can work his alchemy in Japan and South Korea.

Tim Vickery

Fact file

Club Southampton (Eng)
Country Ecuador
Born December 23, 1974
Previous clubs Espoli, El Nacional, Barcelona, Cruz Azul (Mex), Necaxa (Mex)
International caps 43 (20 goals)

After decades of producing great players – Jules Bocande, Roger Mendy, Omar Gueye Sene – but disappointing national sides, Senegal finally seem to have a team capable of winning Africa's greatest tournament. If they are to pull it off, there is no doubt that Diouf will have to walk the walk as well as talk the talk. But if his recent performances for club and country are anything to go by, it would be no surprise at all if the 'bomb' detonates to devastating effect in Mali.

James Copnall

Fact file

Club Lens (Fra)
Country Senegal
Previous clubs Linguere, Sochaux (Fra), Rennes (Fra)
Born January 15, 1981, in Dakar
International debut April 2000, v Benin
International caps 11 (11 goals)

Precious metal...Agustin 'El Tin' Delgado

Ronaldinho

Brazilian wonderboy hoping to avoid following in his namesake's footsteps

BRAZIL hope Ronaldinho will bring them more luck at next year's World Cup than Ronaldo did at France 98.

The 21-year-old 'wonderboy' of Paris Saint-Germain is rated almost as highly as was Ronaldo when he led the four-times world champions into the finals last time around. The difference is that Ronaldinho has not suffered the same injury problems.

Perhaps Brazil would have had far fewer problems qualifying for Korea/Japan had Ronaldo, a long-term knee injury absentee, been present. Without him, they lost six preliminary ties and secured their finals ticket only by beating Venezuela 3-0 in their final match.

Ronaldinho, in and out of the squad partly because of a transfer wrangle and partly because Brazil switched coaches three times, made his presence felt as a substitute in that game. His talent and self-confidence offered Brazil's notoriously impatient fans a glimmer of hope for the finals.

"Qualifying at last was a great feeling, a great relief," he says. "I never doubted we would make it, but we didn't need to make it so difficult for ourselves. We have so much ability we should have been sure of a place in the finals long before the last round of matches. Obviously, the fact we had three coaches did not help because each coach prefers different players and different tactics."

In 1998 Ronaldinho was among the millions of disbelieving Brazilians watching on television the 3-0 defeat by France in the Final. He says that memory will serve as an inspiration to the class of 2002 and that he is ready for the challenge.

He is the legendary rags to riches story. As a kid, Ronaldinho learned to play football in the streets, on waste ground, in bare feet. His parents could not afford boots or even half-decent shoes.

Now his boots are not merely provided for him but he is paid a six-figure sum for the privilege.

Confusion will continue to reign, of course, over names. Ronaldo (of Inter) was originally nicknamed Ronaldinho when he first emerged in Brazil in the early 1990s, so as to avoid confusion with an occasional international who already carried the name Ronaldo. In due course the older Ronaldo slipped into the shadows, Ronaldinho became Ronaldo, thus leaving the way clear for the latest Ronaldinho.

Appropriately, Ronaldo is his hero. He says: "I feel sorry for Ronaldo. He has always been a hero of mine but he just does not appear to have had any luck with injuries. All of us players know something like that can happen to anyone, at any time. Every time I get up in the morning and find my family are all together, happy and healthy, I appreciate how fortunate I am."

Not that rising up the ladder to fame and fortune has been a simple process. For instance, it took several months before Ronaldinho could start playing in France because of a row over the transfer fee between Gremio, his Brazilian club, and PSG. "That was so frustrating," he says. "All I wanted to do was come to France and play, but it was held up by all these problems I didn't really understand.

"I was always determined I would come to Europe to play, though. Putting aside the financial aspect, I think every Brazilian player knows that, if he wants to make a name for himself at the top level, he has to play in Europe at some stage."

But the adjustment has not been easy. The initial problem was not so much the football or even the weather, but the language. Fortunately, PSG have a little colony of fellow Brazilians who could translate for the new boy in the No 21 shirt.

Footballers are notoriously superstitious. Ronaldinho was not among them until one day he received a letter from a fan telling him that he had a duty to wear the No 21 because that was the total of letters in his full name – Ronaldo de Assis Moreira. He says: "The first goal I scored in senior football I was wearing No 21 so it's turned out to be a good luck charm."

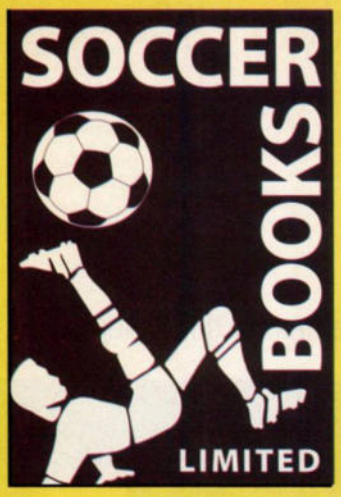
So, in the run-up for Korea and Japan, watch for the numbers when Brazil name their squad.

Keir Radnedge

Rags to riches...Ronaldinho

Fact file

Club Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
Country Brazil
Born March 21, 1980, in Porto Alegre
Previous club Gremio
International debut June 1999, v Latvia
International caps 22 (9 goals)



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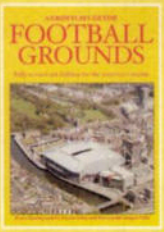

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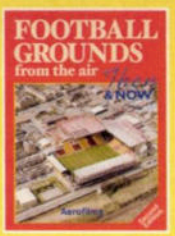

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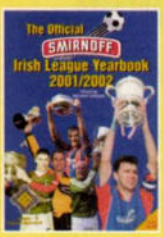

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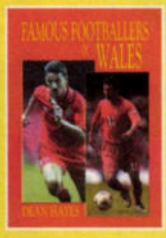

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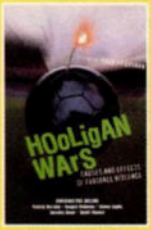

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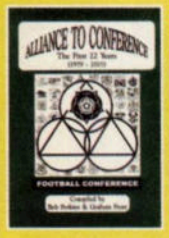

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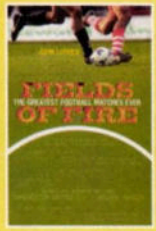

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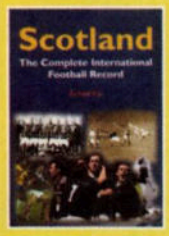

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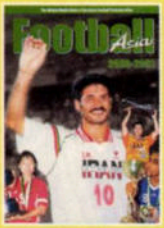

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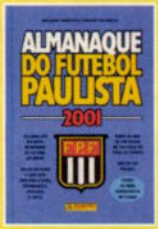

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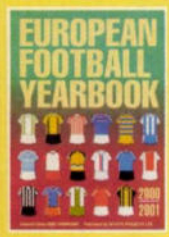

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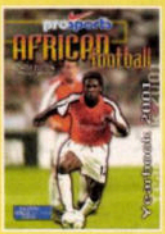

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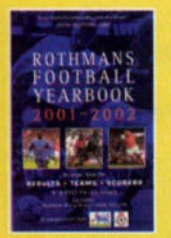

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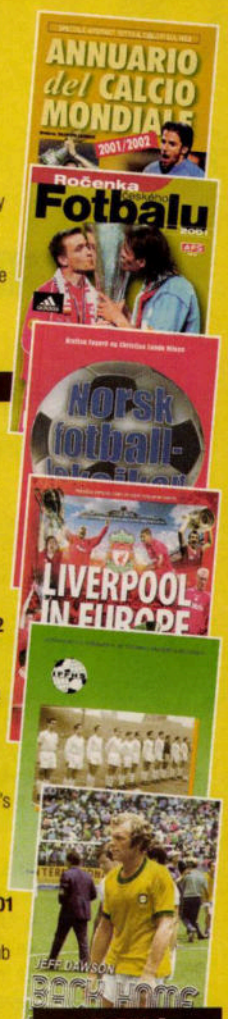

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Country Spain
Club Real Madrid
Born March 23, 1968, in Malaga
Previous club Valladolid
International debut September 1989, v Poland
International caps 83 (27 goals)
Honours World Club Cup 1998; Champions League 1998, 2000; Spanish League 1990, 1995, 1997, 2001; Spanish Cup 1993

FERNANDO HIERRO is Spain's most capped outfield player ever. Despite a tour of duty limited to defensive positions, he is also his country's all-time leading scorer. More than 500 games and 120 goals for Real Madrid take in two Champions League triumphs and four League titles. Yet Spain's captain could stroll down the main street of any European capital outside of Madrid without being bothered for a single autograph.

Earlier this month Hierro succeeded Antonio Banderas as Malaga's 'Prodigal Son of the Year'. There's more chance of Zorro hanging up his sword than Hierro gaining individual recognition outside of his hometown. If it's any consolation, winning World Cups, European Championships and club titles galore wasn't enough to get Baresi, Koeman or Bobby Moore on to the individual awards podium, either. There have been 45 European Footballers of the Year to date. The only winning defenders are Franz Beckenbauer and Matthias Sammer. Both, as it happens, reconverted midfielders.

Even in Spain, Hierro doesn't get the kudos he deserves. Turning an abrasive face to the outside world is a factor. His attitude at mandatory press conference appearances ranges from stern to sarcastic. Greta Garbo gave more one-on-one interviews. "I'm not the boss in the dressing-room," he said recently of the Bernabeu's internal hierarchy. He then shot the gathered journalists a look that said, 'And if anyone dares to disagree with me, I'll really show them who's boss.'

"I couldn't care less about the critics," he growled on another occasion as Madrid shipped goals at a rate of knots. "No footballer can perform at 100 per cent for 13 years. But I always give everything and sleep with a clear conscience. I only answer to my coaches. Nobody else's opinion interests me."

Hierro's domestic critics – the 50 per cent of Spain's national sports media based in Barcelona – tend to dwell on his physical excesses. "He always loses his temper when playing against me," Hristo Stoichkov once said, "he should learn to calm down." That's a case of the pot calling the kettle black, but Hierro's run-ins with the mild-mannered Rivaldo are also legendary. Like former Barça rival Ronald Koeman before him, Hierro's reputation seems to intimidate referees. His 130 yellow cards and 14 reds are a Spanish League record. Frankly, he should have seen a lot more.

Needless to say, you don't survive at the top so long on dirty tricks. "Fernando is a model professional," says Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque, "I can only say positive things about him; his behaviour is exquisite and his commitment exceptional. His only problem is a willingness to take the flak for other people's mistakes. In Spain we massacre the strong and let the weak get away with murder. But Fernando remains the complete player: dominant at the back and decisive going forward."

The fact that only eight of Hierro's 27 international goals have been penalties is evidence of the attacking flair Del Bosque alludes to. "I've never considered myself an out and out defender," says Hierro. "At times I've played in midfield and I love to get forward."

Hierro made his international debut in September 1989 against Poland. Of the 16 players coach Luis Suarez used that day, all but Eusebio have retired, and the former Barça midfielder played his last international way back in 1992. Hierro may be 34 in March, but he's still the first name on Spain's team-sheet and, injuries permitting, will captain his country at his fourth World Cup finals.

His achievements aren't just about longevity, either. No player relies more on his understanding with a team-mate than a centre-half; it's testament to Hierro that he has maintained such high standards despite a staggering number of partners. Last season Spain boss Jose Camacho paired him with six different henchmen: Nadal, Paco, Abelardo, Campo, Unai and Tellez. Overall, that's 21 international partners and counting. And Hierro can be forgiven if he doesn't swap phone numbers with Francisco Pavon, his latest cohort at club level. Karanka, Campo, Sanz, Helguera, Sanchis, Julio Cesar, Nando, Alkorta, Ramis, Garcia Calvo, Rocha, Spasic, Ruggeri, Tendillo; the list of Madrid centre-halves that Hierro has seen come and go is longer than the *Paseo de la Castellana*.

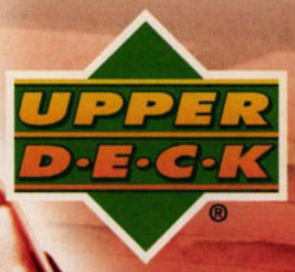
Persistent back problems and creaking knees mean he is no longer the intimidating physical presence of old. However, the lack of alternatives for club and country mean the words Hierro and rotation are never found in the same sentence. Fortunately for his team-mates, Hierro's reading of the game remains intact. And those trademark diagonal long balls from the back are still a potent offensive catalyst.

In 83 internationals, Hierro has been on the losing side just seven times. Unfortunately, the Spanish pick some awfully bad days to lose. At USA 94, Hierro watched Baggio finish Spain off in the dying moments of the quarter-finals. At the same stage at Euro 96 he misfired in the penalty shoot-out against England. At France 98 there was no coming back from the opening day setback against Nigeria. At Euro 2000 Hierro was Spain's best player in the first two games, but injury kept him out of another quarter-final defeat, this time against France.

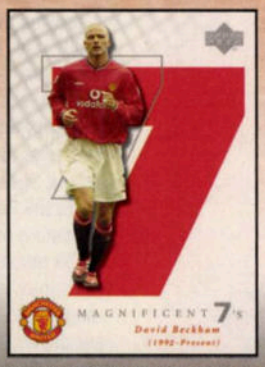
"Lifting the World Cup would be the ultimate experience," he says, "but it's not just me who needs to win a major tournament to prove a point; it's Spanish football in general. We have to keep reminding ourselves that Spain have never done anything at the World Cup."

'It's not just me who needs to win a major tournament to prove a point; it's Spanish football in general. We have to keep reminding ourselves that Spain have never done anything at the World Cup'

A MANCHESTER UNITED CARD COLLECTORS DREAM COME TRUE.



MATCH WORN SHIRT/BOOT COMBO CARD
(NUMBERED TO 50)



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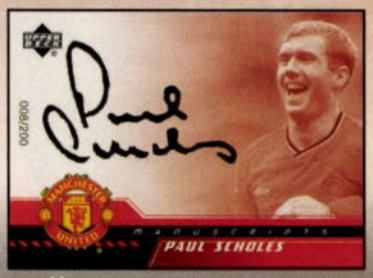

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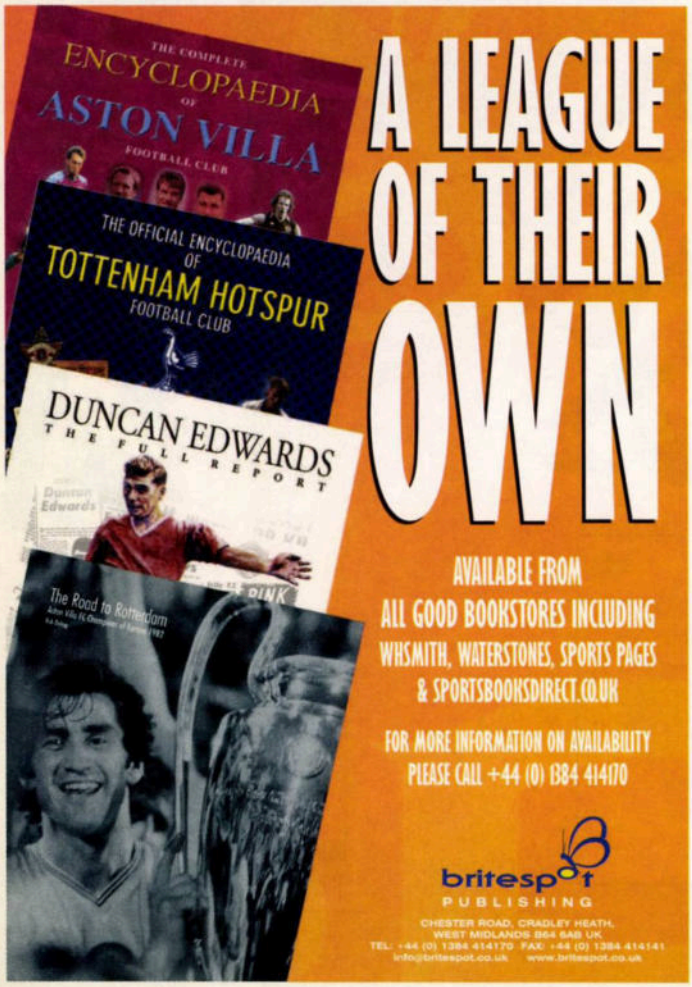
Peace in our time...(from left) Scudamore, Crozier and Taylor



Settling the score

Simon Banks on the winners and losers from the PFA's threatened players' strike

AS the dust settles on the strike that never was and as details of the settlement emerge, it is possible to identify the winners and losers in the dispute and to gain some pointers as to the future of English football.

The strike was settled when the Professional Footballers' Association accepted an offer of £17.5million in TV revenue per year for the next 10 years. Although this was less than the five per cent of current TV contracts that PFA boss Gordon Taylor was looking for (this would have amounted to about £30m per year), the fact that the deal is for 10 years is more important.

It is widely accepted that the value of soccer TV rights in England has peaked. Taylor has ensured against a possible fall in TV revenues by negotiating a clause whereby the payments to the union will decrease by half a per cent for every percentage fall in the value of TV contracts. Should the value rise, the union will receive a three-quarter per cent increment for every one per cent increase. Make no mistake, this is a very good deal for the PFA and one that is unique in world football.

FA chief executive Adam Crozier attempted to cast himself as the arbiter in the dispute, rather than the protagonist. Not once did Crozier confront or disparage the union in public, preferring, like the Football League, to leave the negotiating and the propaganda war to the Premier League. He was thus able to appear as a peacemaker, a role that the public seem to have accepted.

Leaving the negotiations to Premier League chief executive Richard Scudamore was a tactical move by the clubs, who wanted to distance themselves from the dispute and portray themselves as victims. This never really washed; Scudamore was answerable only to the Premiership clubs and was negotiating on their behalf.

The propaganda war was left to the Premier League's press department – and it failed dismally. Even those newspapers on the political right, whose natural inclination is to attack any sign of union militancy, were sympathetic to the PFA. First, journalists knew that after the dispute they would be back to interviewing players and wanted to keep on the right side of them. Secondly, Taylor always returns journalists' calls and engages them in genuine conversation; the Premier League press department has always viewed journalists with suspicion. Many journalists were surprised to be lobbied on the phone over the dispute by people who previously had been less than helpful.

The Premier League is a loser not only because it is paying the most money to the PFA, but also because its conduct during the dispute was amateurish and shoddy. Scudamore may be great at negotiating TV and sponsorship deals, but he could do with attending an industrial relations course.

The Football League is the biggest loser in the whole, sorry affair. Of all the television deals struck during the summer, the Football League's £315m, three-year deal with ITV Sport appeared the most generous. It has now become clear, however, that the broadcaster overpaid for the rights and the chances of it seeing out the contract are diminishing daily.

Poor viewing figures are not helped by Sky's refusal to carry ITV's channels on its platform, and the broadcaster is expected to attempt to re-negotiate the deal downwards. That would mean the League would have to pay an even higher proportion of its reduced income to the PFA, thanks to the half per cent for every per cent decrease clause in the settlement.

As if Football League chief executive David Burns didn't have enough to worry about, the day after the strike was called off he had to deal with the prospect of the League splitting after it was revealed that six of the biggest clubs were plotting a breakaway 'Phoenix League', or Premier League second division. But more of that at a later date.

The strike that never was may not have changed the face of English football, but it has highlighted the problems facing the game. Football's bubble is on the point of bursting and those who suffer most as a consequence will be the smaller Football League clubs. No surprise there then.

JAN 2002

THE NO.1 INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

WORLD SERVICE

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE MONTH'S STATS & FACTS

INTERNATIONALS

Sunday, November 11

Nov 11 - Bamako, Mali - Amilcar Cabral Cup 3-pl
Mali 2
Guinea-Bissau 1

Nov 11 - Bamako, Mali - Amilcar Cabral Cup Final
Senegal U-20 3 (Ndoye 2, Keita)
Gambia 1 (Samba)

Tuesday, November 13

Nov 13 - Gwangju - friendly
South Korea 1 (Choi Yong-soo 43)
Croatia 1 (Zivkovic 62)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,965. **Ref:** Matsumura (Jap)
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Sim Jae-won, Song Chong-gug, Yoo Sang-chul, Kim Tae-young, Choi Tae-uk, Kim Nam-il (Lee Chun-soo 46), Lee Eul-young, Choi Yong-soo (Cha Doo-li 75), Seol Ki-hyeon (Ahn Jung-hwan 46), Lee Young-pyo.
Croatia: Butina - Saric, Brajkovic, Tokic, Zivkovic, Jarni, Soldo (Dolonga 46), Simunic, Agic (Hrman 70), Vlaovic (Rapajic 30; Mumlek 86), Karic (Petric 61).

Wednesday, November 14

Nov 14 - Sao Luis - WC qual
Brazil 3 (Luizao 12, 19, Rivaldo 35)
Venezuela 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Gimenez (Arg)
Brazil: Marcos - Lucio, Roque Junior, Edmilson, Belletti, Roberto Carlos, Emerson Ferreira, Juninho Paulista (Ronaldinho 68), Rivaldo, Luizao (Denilson 58), Edilson (Marcelinho Paraiba 75).
Venezuela: Dudamel - H Gonzalez, J M Rey, R Mea Vitali, Rojas, M Mea Mitali, L Vera, Urdaneta (Vallenilla 58), Paez (Martinez 32), Noriega, Moran (Jimenez 51). *Sent off: L Vera 48min.*

Nov 14 - Santiago - WC qual
Chile 0
Ecuador 0
Att: 19,237. **Ref:** Arandia (Bol)
Chile: S Vargas - Robles, Torres, Gomez (Almendra 65), Perez, Sanhueza (Ormeno 46), Medina (Ahumada 46), Munoz, Riveros, Martel, Gutierrez.
Ecuador: Cevallos - De la Cruz, I Hurtado, Espinoza, M Ayovi - Obregon, Burbano, Gomez, Mendez - Fernandez, Kaviedes (Tenorio 70).

Nov 14 - Prague - WC qual play-off, 2nd leg
Czech Republic 0
Belgium 1 (Wilmots pen 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,996. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Belgium 2-0 on agg
Czech Republic: Srnicek - Johana (Jarosik 57), Hubschmann, Novotny, Jankulovski - Poborsky (Sionko 46), Hasek (Smicer 66), Rosicky, Nedved - Baros, Lokvenc. *Sent off: Nedved 88min, Baros 90min.*
Belgium: De Vlieger - Deflandre, Clement, De Boeck, Van Kerckhoven - Vermant (Vanderhaeghe 89), Simons, Walem (Boffin 84), Goor - Verheyen, Sonck (Wilmots 63).

Nov 14 - Tallinn - friendly
Estonia 0
Kazakhstan 0
Att: 1,500. **Ref:** Kotter (Est)
Sent off: Familitsev (Kazakhstan) 90min

Nov 14 - Dortmund - WC qual play-off, 2nd leg
Germany 4 (Ballack 4, 50, Neuville 11, Rehmer 15)
Ukraine 1 (Shevchenko 90)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 52,400. **Ref:** Melo Pereira (Por)
Germany 5-2 on agg
Germany: Kahn - Rehmer (Baumann 87), Nowotny, Linke - Ramelow, Hamann, Ziege - Schneider, Ballack - Jancker (Bierhoff 58), Neuville (Ricken 71).
Ukraine: Levytskyi - Luzhnyi, Vaschuk, Holovko, Nesmachnyi (Shyshchenko 55) - Tymoshchuk (Husin 25) - Zubov, Parfyonov, Skrypnyk - Shevchenko, Vorobei (Rebrov 71).

Nov 14 - Athens - friendly
Greece 1 (Limberopoulos 86)
Cyprus 2 (Okkas 41, Ioakim 88)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,400. **Ref:** Pusek (Hun)
Greece: Nikopolidis (Halkias 46) - Katsambis, Dabizas, Vokolos, Fissas (P Konstantinidis 75), Lakis (Georgiadis 46), Zagorakis (Zikos 85), Kasapis, Machlas (Limberopoulos 69), Karagounis (Kafes 46), Nikolaidis.
Cyprus: N Panayiotou - Theodotou, Ioakim, Daskalakis, M Charalambous, N Nicolaou, Eleftheriou (Georghiou 84), Satsias, Okkas (Yiasemakis 60), Christodolou (Louka 80), M Constantinou.

Nov 14 - Budapest - friendly
Hungary 5 (Lisztes 3, 75, Ferenczi 25, Tokoli pen 56, Tokody 66)
Macedonia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Klyuchnikov (Rus)
Hungary: Babos - Bodnar, Kuttor, Juhar, Fuzi (Egressy 76), Peto (Boor 60), Lisztes (Dvery 77), Sebok (Lendvai 52), Dardai (Szamosi 70), Tokoli (Tokody 64), Ferenczi.
Macedonia: Nikolov - Stavrevski, Sedloski, Gjuzelov, Beganovic , Siljanovski (Nacevski 62), Trajanov, Krstev (Stanic 40), Lazarevski, Jokic (Panov 69), Stojanov.

Nov 14 - Riga - friendly
Latvia 1 (Astafjevs 89)
Russia 3 (Khokhlov 8, Alenichev 48, Panov 81)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Kaldma (Est)
Latvia: Kolinko - Igor N Stepanovs, Astafjevs, Zemlinskis, Laizans (Igor V Stepanovs 81), Blagonadezdins (Zizilevs 75), Isakovs, Pucinsks (Bleidelis 59), Pahars (Lukasevics 90), Rubins (Dobrecovs 57), Verpakovskis (Kolesnichenko 75).
Russia: Nigmatullin (Filimonov 83) - Khokhlov, Nikiforov, Smertin, Alenichev (Koriaka 59), Kovtun, Onopko, Karpin (Gusev 63), Dayev, Mostovoi, Beschastnykh (Panov 73).

Nov 14 - Corradino - friendly
Malta 2 (Carabott pen 34, M Mifsud 75)
Canada 1 (Stalteri 43)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** De Santis (Ita)
Malta: Muscat - Spiteri, Chetcuti (Camenzuli), Debono (Holland), Theuma (Dimech), Said, Carabott, Saliba (Suda; Brincat), Agius (Mallia), M Mifsud, Nwoko.
Canada: Hirschfeld - (Stamatopoulos 46), Fenwick (Hastings 46), Watson (Nash 81), Fletcher, McKenna, Bent, Dasovic, Brennan, Stalteri, Radzinski (Xausa 57), Corazzin (Peschisolido 46).

Nov 14 - Rabat - friendly
Morocco 1 (Rokki 86)
Zambia 0
HT: 0-0

Nov 14 - Asuncion - WC qual
Paraguay 0
Colombia 4 (Aristizabal 24, pen 33, 62, Castillo 83)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Paraguay: Bobadilla - Arce (Masi 71), Sanabria, Gamarra, Ayala, Caniza - Quintana (Struway 83), Paredes, Acuna - Gimenez (Brizuela 56), Cardozo.
Colombia: O Cordoba - Vallejo, I Cordoba, Yepes, Bedoya - M Serna, Restrepo, Grisales (Castillo 83), Morantes - Aristizabal (Castro 85), F Asprilla.

Nov 14 - Lima - WC qual
Peru 1 (Alva 9)
Bolivia 1 (A Castillo 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,374. **Ref:** Baldassi (Arg)
Peru: Miranda - Huaman, Hidalgo, Pajuelo, Jayo, Palacios, Mendoza, Jorge Soto (Palomino 46), Salazar, Ciurlizza (Ferrari 69), Alva (Carty 76).
Bolivia: Fernandez - Reyes, J C Garcia, O Sanchez (Ribeiro 54), Olivares, Rojas, Botero (A Castillo 63), Coimbra, L Paz (Justiniano 90), D Pena, Galindo.

Nov 14 - Poznan - friendly
Poland 0
Cameroon 0
Att: 22,000. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
Poland: Majdan (Matysek 46) - Klos, Hajto, J Bak, Michal Zewlakow (Krzynowek 63), Karwan (Kaczorowski 46), A Bak (Kukielka 46), Swierczewski, Kozminski, Kryszalowicz (Sypniewski 46), Olisadebe (Wichniarek 46).
Cameroon: Alioum - Etame-Mayer, Tchato (Mettomo 78), Kalla, Song, Wome, Njitap, Olembe, Foe, Eto'o (N'Diefi 87), Mboma (Suffo 72).

**Nov 14 - Lisbon - friendly*
Portugal 5 (Figo pen 26, Nuno Gomes 36, 62, Jorge Andrade 39, Boa Morte 47)
Angola 1 (Mendonca 1)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Garibian (Fra)
**Match abandoned after 70mins; Angola were unable to field the minimum seven players having had four sent off, one carried off injured in the 70th minute and no further substitutes.*
Portugal: Ricardo (Quim 46) - Beto (Frechaut 46), Fernando Couto (Fernando Meira 46), Jorge Andrade, Petit (Boa Morte 41), Paulo Sousa, Capucho (Joao Tomas 46), Joao Pinto (Litos 46), Figo (Hugo Viana 46), Nuno Gomes, Pauleta.
Angola: Marito (Fernando 51) - Lito (Vicente 51), Wilson, Neto, Asha, Andre (Freitas 61), Franklin, Felipe (Paulao 51), Mendonca (Bodunha 51), Akwa (Quinzinho 51), Mantorras (Kali 46). *Sent off: Asha 17min, Wilson 27min, Franklin 27min, Neto 64min.*

Nov 14 - Bucharest - WC qual play-off, 2nd leg
Romania 1 (Contra 65)
Slovenia 1 (Rudonja 56)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 24,500. **Ref:** Krug (Ger)
Slovenia 3-2 on agg
Romania: Lobont - Contra, Gheorghe Popescu, Miu (Mihalcea 79), Chivu - Ghioane (Ganea 59), Sabau, D Munteanu, Mutu (Pancu 59) - Niculae, Ilie.
Slovenia: Simeunovic - Milinovic, Galic, Vugdalic - Gajser, A Ceh, Pavlin, Novak - Acimovic (Sankovic 62) - Osterc (Pavlovic 90), Rudonja.

Nov 14 - Huelva - friendly
Spain 1 (Raul 72)
Mexico 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)
Spain: Casillas (Ricardo 79) - Puyol (Curro Torres 71), Hierro, Nadal (Tellez 46), Juanfran, Guardiola (Sergio 57), Valeron (Jose Ignacio 57), Mendieta (Victor 57), Munitis, Raul (Aranzabal 79), Diego Tristan (Morientes 46).
Mexico: O Perez (O Sanchez 86) - Suarez, Vidrio, Brown, Arellano (Saavedra 60), R Morales, Garcia Aspe (R Garcia 61), Torrado (Mercado 85), Johan Rodriguez (A Rodriguez 67), Palencia (De Nigris 67), Zague.

Nov 14 - Istanbul - WC qual play-off, 2nd leg
Turkey 5 (Basturk 21, Hakan Sukur 30, Okan 45, Arif 69, 84)
Austria 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Turkey 6-0 on agg
Turkey: Rustu - Emre Asik, Umit Ozat, Alpay - Umit Davala, Okan (Sergen 62), Tugay, Basturk (Arif 42), Abdullah - Hakan Sukur, Hasan Sas (Ilhan 87).
Austria: Wohlfahrt - Winklhofer, Vukovic, Strafner - Prilasnig (Kitzbichler 46) - Lexa (Schopp 52), Markus Hiden, Herzog, Flogel - Haas, Vastic (Weissenberger 75).

Nov 14 - Montevideo - WC qual
Uruguay 1 (Silva 19)
Argentina 1 (Claudio Lopez 45)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Uruguay: Carini - Tais (R Morales 64), Lembo, Montero, Dario Rodriguez (Regueiro 83) - Guigou, Garcia, De los Santos, Recoba - Magallanes, Silva (Alonso 46).
Argentina: Burgos - Pochettino, Ayala, Samuel - Zanetti, Sorin, Almeyda, Veron, Aimar (Placente 84) - Ortega (Cruz 46), Claudio Lopez.

Thursday, November 15

Nov 15 - Tehran - WC qual play-off, 2nd leg
Iran 1 (Golmohammadi 90)
Rep Ireland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 100,000. **Ref:** Mattus Vega (CR)
Rep Ireland 2-1 on agg
Iran: Mirzapour - Peyravani, Golmohammadi, Rezaei - Mahdavikia, Bagheri, Kavianpour, Minavand - Karimi, Daei, Vahedinikbakht.
Rep Ireland: Given - Finnan, Breen, Staunton, Harte - McAteer, Kinsella, Holland, Kilbane (G Kelly 82) - Robbie Keane (Morrison 76), Connolly.

Tuesday, November 20

Nov 20 - Melbourne - WC qual play-off, 1st leg
Australia 1 (Muscat pen 78)
Uruguay 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 84,656. **Ref:** Cesari (Ita)
Australia: Schwarzer - Muscat, Moore, Murphy, Okon, T Vidmar, Emerton, Skoko, Viduka, Kewell, Lazaridis (Agostino 46).
Uruguay: Carini - Tais, Montero, Dario Rodriguez, Lembo, Guigou, Garcia, Recoba, De los Santos, Chevanton (Regueiro 77), Magallanes (Giacomazzi 72).

Wednesday, November 21

Nov 21 - Addis Ababa - friendly
Ethiopia 1 (Gebremichael 38)
Zambia 2 (Chaswe 49, Tawa 63)
HT: 1-0

Sunday, November 25

Nov 25 - Montevideo - WC qual play-off, 2nd leg
Uruguay 3 (Silva 14, R Morales 70, 90)
Australia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 62,000. **Ref:** Bujsaim (UAE)
Uruguay 3-1 on agg
Uruguay: Carini - Tais, Lembo, Montero, Dario Rodriguez, Guigou, Garcia, Silva (Sorondo 81), Magallanes (R Morales 65), Regueiro (De los Santos 64), Recoba.
Australia: Schwarzer - Muscat (Agostino 62), Moore, Okon, T Vidmar, Emerton, Skoko, Viduka, Kewell, Lazaridis, Murphy (Aloisi 81).

Wednesday, November 28

Nov 28 - Tunis - friendly
Tunisia 1 (Melki 73)
Togo 0
HT: 0-0

Wednesday, December 5

Dec 5 - Algiers - friendly
Algeria 1 (Saifi 54)
Ghana 1 (Blay 23)
HT: 0-1

Dec 5 - Sikasso - friendly
Mali 0
Ivory Coast 3 (K Traore 1, 29, Brou 10)
HT: 0-3

OTHER GAME

Nov 10 - Buenos Aires - Maradona Farewell Match
Argentina 6 (Claudio Lopez 16, Aimar 48, 87, Maradona pen 61, pen 90, Castroman 75)
World XI 3 (Suker 29, Cantona 77, Higuita pen 89)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Bava
Argentina: Burgos (Cavallero 46) - Zanetti, Ayala (Pochettino 46), Samuel (Berizzo 46) - Sorin (Placente 46), Almeyda (C Husain 46), Veron (Castroman 46), Maradona, Aimar - Claudio Lopez (Cruz 46), Kily Gonzalez.
World XI: O Cordoba (Carini 46; Higuita 60) - Ciro Ferrara, Bermudez, I Cordoba (Matthaus 46), Gamarra - Solano, Riquelme (Recoba 46; Aguilera 60), Valderrama, Francescoli (Leo Rodriguez 46) - Stoichkov (Cantona 46), Suker (Careca 60).

EUROPE

EURO 2004

- Qualifying draw to be held on January 25, 2002, in Oporto.
- Portugal qualify automatically for finals as hosts.
- Europe's other 50 countries will be drawn into 10 groups of five, to be played on a round-robin basis.
- The 10 group winners qualify for finals automatically; the 10 runners-up will play-off in five head-to-head, home and away ties, the winners of which also qualify.

● Top 10 seeds*: France**, Sweden, Spain, Czech Republic, Germany, Republic of Ireland, Romania, Italy, Belgium, Turkey.
Second-ranking seeds*: Russia, Croatia, Denmark, Holland, Yugoslavia, Poland, England, Slovenia, Ukraine, Scotland.
**Determined by co-efficient based on average points per match gained in the qualifying tournaments for Euro 2000 and the 2002 World Cup.*
***France automatically ranked top as holders.*
● 10 qualifying matchdays: Sep 7/8, 2002; Oct 12/13, 2002; Oct 15/16, 2002; Mar 29/30, 2003; Apr 1/2, 2003; June 7/8, 2003; June 10/11, 2003; Sep 6/7, 2003; Sep 9/10, 2003; Oct 11/12, 2003. Qualifying play-off dates: Nov 15/16, 2003; Nov 18/19, 2003.
● Finals tournament: opening match – June 12, 2004, in Oporto; Final – July 4, 2004, in Lisbon.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

2nd group phase

Group A

November 20

Bayern Munich 1 (Paulo Sergio 87)
Manchester United 1 (Van Nistelrooy 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 59,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Bayern: Kahn - Sagnol, Kuffour, R Kovac, Lizarazu - Salihamidzic (Zickler 73), Effenberg (Sforza 67), Hargreaves, Paulo Sergio - Pizarro, Elber (Jancker 67).
Man Utd: Barthez - G Neville, Brown, Blanc, Irwin (Silvestre 46) - Keane - Beckham, Veron, Scholes, Fortune - Van Nistelrooy (Yorke 83).

Boavista 1 (Sanchez 24)
Nantes 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Wegereef (Hol)
Boavista: Ricardo - Rui Oscar (Martelinho 20), Paulo Turra, Mario Loja, Erivan - Bosingwa (Pedro Santos 59), Frechaut, Sanchez - Duda, Silva, Goulart (Jorge Silva 63).
Nantes: Landreau - Delhommeau, Fabbri, Gillet - Laspalles, Da Rocha, Berson, Olembe (Ziani 78), Armand - Ahamada (Dalmat 67), Andre (Vahirua 67).

December 5

Manchester United 3 (Van Nistelrooy 31, 62, Blanc 55)
Boavista 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 66,274. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto (Spa)
Man Utd: Barthez - P Neville, Blanc, G Neville (O'Shea 77), Silvestre - Veron, Keane, Butt, Scholes (Fortune 85) - Van Nistelrooy (Solskjaer 88), Yorke.
Boavista: Ricardo - Frechaut, Pedro Emanuel, Paulo Turra, Erivan - Jorge Silva (Martelinho 61) - Petit, Sanchez (Pedro Santos 69) - Duda, Silva (Marcio 58), Goulart.

Nantes 0
Bayern Munich 1 (Paulo Sergio 65)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 28,167. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Nantes: Landreau - Laspalles, Gillet, Fabbri, Armand - Da Rocha, Ziani (Andre 77), Berson, Devineau (Olembe 59), Quint - Ahamada (Moldovan 63).
Bayern: Wessels - Sagnol, Kuffour, R Kovac, Lizarazu - N Kovac, Hargreaves (Sforza 68), Fink, Paulo Sergio - Jancker (Zickler 83), Pizarro (Elber 71).

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Bayern Munich	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Boavista	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
Nantes	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

Feb 20: Boavista v Bayern Munich; Nantes v Manchester United.
Feb 26: Bayern Munich v Boavista; Manchester United v Nantes.
Mar 13: Manchester United v Bayern Munich; Nantes v Boavista.
Mar 19: Bayern Munich v Nantes; Boavista v Manchester United.

Group B

November 20

Galatasaray 1 (Perez 22)
Roma 1 (Emerson 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Colombo (Fra)
Galatasaray: Mondragon - Capone, Emre Asik, Bulent Korkmaz, Hakan Unsal - Perez, Ayhan, Bulent Akin (Fleurquin 46), Hasan Sas - Sergen - Umit Karan (Arif 88).
Roma: Antonioli - Zebina (Fuser 80), Samuel, Aldair - Cafu, Tommasi (Cassano 46), Emerson, Lima (Assuncao 74), Candela - Totti, Batistuta.

Liverpool 1 (Owen 27)
Barcelona 3 (Kluivert 41, Rochemback 65, Overmars 84)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 41,521. **Ref:** Krug (Ger)
Liverpool: Dudek - Carragher, Henchoz, Hyypia, Riise - Gerrard - Murphy, McAllister (Berger 69), Smicer (Litmanen 80) - Heskey (Fowler 66), Owen.
Barcelona: Bonano - Christanval, Andersson, De Boer, Coco - Gabri (Rochemback 58), Xavi, Cocu - Kluivert (Reiziger 89), Luis Enrique (Overmars 17), Rivaldo.

December 5

Barcelona 2 (Saviola 49, 66)
Galatasaray 2 (Umit Karan 5, Fleurquin 41)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Barcelona: Bonano - Puyol, Andersson, Christanval, Coco - Rochemback (Gerard 46), Xavi (Overmars 46), Cocu - Kluivert, Rivaldo, Saviola.
Galatasaray: Mondragon - Capone, Emre Asik, Hakan Unsal (Suat 51), Perez - Bulent Korkmaz, Ayhan, Ergun, Fleurquin - Bulent Akin (Sergen 85), Umit Karan. *Sent off: Capone 62min, Hakan Unsal 90min.*

Roma 0
Liverpool 0
Att: 57,819. **Ref:** Jol (Hol)
Roma: Antonioli - Zebina, Samuel, Aldair - Guigou (Assuncao 46), Tommasi (Fuser 78), Emerson, Lima, Candela - Batistuta, Totti.
Liverpool: Dudek - Carragher, Henchoz, Hyypia, Riise - Gerrard (Biscan 84), Hamann, Murphy (Berger 61), Smicer (McAllister 63) - Owen, Heskey.

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Galatasaray	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Roma	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Liverpool	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

Feb 20: Barcelona v Roma; Liverpool v Galatasaray.
Feb 26: Galatasaray v Liverpool; Roma v Barcelona.
Mar 13: Barcelona v Liverpool; Roma v Galatasaray.
Mar 19: Galatasaray v Barcelona; Liverpool v Roma.

Group C

November 21

Panathinaikos 0
FC Porto 0
Att: 17,200. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Panathinaikos: Nikopolidis - Seitaridis, Henriksen, Kyrgiakos, Fissas - Basinas, Paulo Sousa (Kolkka 80), Karagounis, Michaelsen (Limberopoulos 70) - Constantinou, Olisadebe (Vlaovic 80).
Porto: Paulo Santos - Ibarra, Ricardo Carvalho, Jorge Andrade, Mario Silva - Costinha (Rubens Junior 90), Deco, Paredes - Capucho, Pena (Ricardo Silva 88), Clayton (Soderstrom 78).

Sparta Prague 2 (Michalik 30, Sionko 72)
Real Madrid 3 (Zidane 20, Morientes 36, 74)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 19,156. **Ref:** Braschi (Ita)
Sparta: Cech - Flachbart, Novotny Hubschmann, Labant - Sionko, Hasek (Sloncik 71), Jarosik, Michalik (Zelenka 52) - Kincl, Hartig (Papousek 78).
Real Madrid: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Pavon, Roberto Carlos - Figo (Guti 89), Makelele, Ivan Helguera, Zidane - Raul, Morientes (McManaman 85).

December 4

FC Porto 0
Sparta Prague 1 (Sionko 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Levnikov (Rus)
Porto: Paulo Santos - Ibarra (Candido Costa 75), Ricardo Carvalho, Jorge Andrade, Mario Silva - Paredes, Deco, Soderstrom - Capucho, Pena (Paulo Costa 46), Clayton (Helder Postiga 73).
Sparta: Cech - Flachbart, Novotny, Hubschmann, Labant - Sionko (Papousek 81), Hasek (Zelenka 90), Jarosik, Michalik - Hartig (Holub 88), Kincl.

Real Madrid 3 (Ivan Helguera 41, Raul 66, 72)
Panathinaikos 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Real Madrid: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Hierro (Karanka 53), Pavon, Roberto Carlos (Solari 77) - Figo, Celades, Ivan Helguera, Zidane - Raul, Morientes (Munitis 86).
Panathinaikos: Nikopolidis - Seitaridis, Kyrgiakos, Henriksen, Goumas, Fissas - Paulo Sousa (Boateng 46), Michaelsen (Karagounis 46), Basinas - Constantinou (Vlaovic 70), Olisadebe.

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Sparta Prague	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
FC Porto	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Panathinaikos	2	0	1	1	0	3	1

Feb 19: Real Madrid v FC Porto; Sparta Prague v Panathinaikos.
Feb 27: Panathinaikos v Sparta Prague; FC Porto v Real Madrid.
Mar 12: FC Porto v Panathinaikos; Real Madrid v Sparta Prague.
Mar 20: Panathinaikos v Real Madrid; Sparta Prague v FC Porto.

Group D

November 21

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Makaay 9, Diego Tristan 25)
Arsenal 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 32,800. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
Deportivo: Molina - Scaloni, Donato, Naybet, Romero - Mauro Silva, Emerson - Valeron (Djalminha 73), Victor - Makaay (Pandiani 49), Diego Tristan (Amavisca 29).
Arsenal: Wright (Taylor 46) - Lauren, Campbell, Upson, Cole - Ljungberg, Vieira, Van Bronckhorst (Edu 78), Pires - Wiltord (Kanu 73), Henry.

November 29

Juventus 4 (Trezeguet 8, 60, Del Piero 37, Tudor 44)
Bayer Leverkusen 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
Juventus: Buffon - Birindelli, Thuram, Iuliano, Pessotto - Zambrotta, Tudor, Tacchinardi, Nedved (Davids 84) - Trezeguet (Amoruso 77), Del Piero.
Leverkusen: Butt - Sebescen, Lucio, Nowotny, Placente (Zivkovic 66) - Basturk (Schneider 52), Ramelow, Ballack, Ze Roberto - Neuville, Kirsten (Vranjes 75).

December 4

Arsenal 3 (Ljungberg 21, 88, Henry 28)
Juventus 1 (Taylor og 49)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,421. **Ref:** Melo Pereira (Por)
Arsenal: Taylor - Lauren, Campbell, Upson, Cole (Keown 89) - Ljungberg, Vieira, Parlour, Pires - Kanu (Bergkamp 69), Henry (Grimandi 87).
Juventus: Buffon - Birindelli, Montero, Thuram, Pessotto (Paramatti 77) - Zambrotta, Tudor (Davids 21), Tacchinardi, Nedved (Amoruso 71) - Trezeguet, Del Piero.

Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Ze Roberto 64, Neuville 67, Ballack 79)
Deportivo La Coruna 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
Leverkusen: Butt - Zivkovic, Lucio, Nowotny, Placente - Schneider, Ramelow, Ballack (Vranjes 87), Ze Roberto - Neuville (Berbatov 86), Kirsten (Basturk 75).
Deportivo: Molina - Hector, Donato, Naybet, Romero - Scaloni (Djalminha 71), Emerson, Mauro Silva, Fran (Amavisca 59) - Valeron (Diego Tristan 75), Makaay.

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	2	1	0	1	5	3	3
Arsenal	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Bayer Leverkusen	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Dep La Coruna	2	1	0	1	2	3	3

Feb 19: Bayer Leverkusen v Arsenal; Juventus v Deportivo La Coruna.
Feb 27: Arsenal v Bayer Leverkusen; Deportivo La Coruna v Juventus.
Mar 12: Arsenal v Deportivo La Coruna; Bayer Leverkusen v Juventus.
Mar 20: Deportivo La Coruna v Bayer Leverkusen; Juventus v Arsenal.

UEFA CUP

3rd rnd, 1st legs

November 20

Bordeaux (Fra) 1 (Miranda 49)
Roda JC (Hol) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,678. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)

Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 2 (Osterc 42, Domb 89)
Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) 1 (Izmailov 56)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Irvine (NI)
Sent off: Cherevchenko (Lokomotiv) 90min

November 22

AEK Athens (Gre) 3 (Tsartas pen 10, Zagorakis 18, Konstantinidis 22)
Litex Lovech (Bul) 2 (Jankovic 29, Rachita 72)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 14,800. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)

Club Brugge (Blg) 4 (Englebert 4, Van der Heyden 54, Mendoza 75, De Brul 89)
Lyon (Fra) 1 (Luyindula 82)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,670. **Ref:** Dauden Ibanez (Spa)

FC Copenhagen (Den) 0
Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 1 (Herrlich 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,620. **Ref:** Riley (Eng)
Sent off: Poulsen (Copenhagen) 44min; Koller (Dortmund) 44min

Feyenoord (Hol) 1 (Ono 83)
Freiburg (Ger) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Dougal (Sco)

Fiorentina (Ita) 0
Lille (Fra) 1 (Bakari 24)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,699. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)

Grasshopper (Swi) 1 (Chapuisat 17)
Leeds United (Eng) 2 (Harte 73, Smith 79)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Cortez Batista (Por)

Ipswich Town (Eng) 1 (Armstrong 81)
Internazionale (Ita) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 24,569. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)

Milan (Ita) 2 (Shevchenko 37, Inzaghi 76)
Sporting Lisbon (Por) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,132. **Ref:** Fernandez Marin (Spa)

PAOK Salonika (Gre) 3 (Yiasemakis 35, 69, Udeze 38)
PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 2 (De Jong 19, Bruggink 81)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 29,000. **Ref:** Bre (Fra)

Parma (Ita) 1 (Johansen og 1)
Brondby (Den) 1 (Nordin pen 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,582. **Ref:** Plautz (Aut)
Sent off: Junior (Parma) 90min

Rangers (Sco) 0
Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 0
Att: 49,223. **Ref:** Nilsson (Swe)
Sent off: Ricksen (Rangers) 80min

Servette (Swi) 0
Hertha (Ger) 0
Att: 8,412. **Ref:** Bo Larsen (Den)

Slovan Liberec (Cze) 3 (Lukas 3, Johana 19, Jun 50)
Mallorca (Spa) 1 (Biagini 60)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,600. **Ref:** Granat (Pol)

Valencia (Spa) 1 (Vicente 75)
Celtic (Sco) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)

3rd rnd, 2nd legs

December 4

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Sorensen 89)
FC Copenhagen 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 42,500. **Ref:** McCurry (Sco)
Dortmund 2-0 on agg

Lokomotiv Moscow 0
Hapoel Tel Aviv 1 (Osterc 48)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Hapoel 3-1 on agg

Roda JC 2 (Anastasiou pen 56, Lawal 65)
Bordeaux 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Stuchlik (Aut)
Sent off: Batlles (Bordeaux) 55min
Roda 2-1 on agg

December 6

Brondby 0
Parma 3 (Mboma 44, Nakata 57, Lamouchi 83)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,628. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
Parma 4-1 on agg

Celtic 1 (Larsson 45)
Valencia 0
Aet. **HT:** 1-0. **90mins:** 1-0. **Att:** 57,299. **Ref:** Fisker (Den)
Agg 1-1. Valencia 5-4 on pens

Freiburg 2 (Kehl 21, Kobiashvili pen 49)
Feyenoord 2 (Van Hooijdonk 58, Leonardo Santiago 85)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,600. **Ref:** Trentalange (Ita)
Feyenoord 3-2 on agg

Hertha 0
Servette 3 (Hilton 17, Frei 49, Obradovic 71)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Barber (Eng)
Sent off: Van Burik (Hertha) 17min
Servette 3-0 on agg

Internazionale 4 (Vieri 18, 35, 72, Kallon 47)
Ipswich Town 1 (Armstrong pen 79)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,358. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)
Inter 4-2 on agg

Leeds United 2 (Kewell 19, Keane 45)
Grasshopper 2 (Nunez 45, 90)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 40,014. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)
Leeds 4-3 on agg

Lille 2 (Bruno Cheyrou 31, Sterjovski 78)
Fiorentina 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Fandel (Ger)
Sent off: Tarozzi (Fiorentina) 76min
Lille 3-0 on agg

Litex Lovech 1 (Yurukov 90)
AEK Athens 1 (Gamarra 16)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Temmink (Hol)
AEK 4-3 on agg

Lyon 3 (Anderson 18, 22, 90)
Club Brugge 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 39,583. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor)
Agg 4-4. Lyon on away goals

Mallorca 1 (Eto'o pen 80)
Slovan Liberec 2 (Gyan 55, Stajner 68)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Poulat (Fra)
Liberec 5-2 on agg

Paris Saint-Germain 0
Rangers 0
Aet. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Strampe (Ger)
Agg 0-0. Rangers 4-3 on pens

PSV Eindhoven 4 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 2, 58, Gakhokidze 27, Van Bommel pen 90)
PAOK Salonika 1 (De Souza 59)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 31,000. **Ref:** Cesari (Ita)
PSV 6-4 on agg

Sporting Lisbon 1 (Niculae 50)
Milan 1 (Javi Moreno 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Wojcik (Pol)
Milan 3-1 on agg

ARMENIA

ARMENIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pyunik Yerevan	22	17	2	3	77	23	53
Zvartnots	22	16	0	6	52	21	48
Spartak Yerevan*	22	15	3	4	57	13	48
Shirak Gyumri	22	14	5	3	52	19	47
Ararat Yerevan	22	13	3	6	42	22	42
Mika Ashtarak	22	12	5	5	44	20	41
Banants	22	10	4	8	46	28	34
Lernagorts	22	5	3	14	25	63	18
Dinamo Yerevan	22	4	4	14	18	48	16
Kotaik Abovian	22	3	3	16	19	65	12
Gharabagh	22	2	6	14	19	63	12
Lori Vanadzor	22	1	2	19	17	83	5

**Formerly Araks Ararat*
Kilikia were expelled after one match; result of that game annulled

AUSTRIA

Nov 17: Austria Wien 0 Admira 0; Bregenz 0 Karnten 1; SV Ried 2 Rapid Wien 0; FC Tirol 0 Grazer AK 1.
Nov 18: Sturm Graz 1 Salzburg 2.
Nov 21: Bregenz 2 Grazer AK 2; Sturm Graz 1 Admira 1; Karnten 1 Salzburg 1.
Nov 24: Admira 3 Sturm Graz 4; Grazer AK 5 Bregenz 0; Karnten 3 Salzburg 1; SV Ried 0 FC Tirol 1.
Nov 25: Rapid Wien 1 Austria Wien 1.
Nov 26: Admira 2 FC Tirol 0; Karnten 2 Sturm Graz 2; Grazer AK 4 SV Ried 1; Rapid Wien 2 Bregenz 2; Salzburg 1 Austria Wien 0.
Dec 1: Austria Wien 2 Karnten 1; Bregenz 3 SV Ried 1; Salzburg 2 Admira 0; FC Tirol 1 Rapid Wien 0.
Dec 2: Sturm Graz 2 Grazer AK 2.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Tirol	20	15	3	2	40	4	48
Grazer AK	22	11	6	5	47	30	39
Sturm Graz	21	10	8	3	38	22	38
Salzburg	22	9	6	7	25	24	33
Karnten	21	9	5	7	25	28	32
Austria Wien	21	6	7	8	26	25	25
Bregenz	22	6	7	9	28	45	25
SV Ried	22	5	6	11	27	38	21
Rapid Wien	21	5	5	11	18	29	20
Admira	22	3	3	16	16	45	12

BELARUS

BELARUS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belshina	26	17	4	5	43	20	55
Dinamo Minsk	26	16	5	5	52	21	53
BATE Borisov	26	16	3	7	54	31	51
Neman-Belkard	26	14	8	4	44	20	50
Shakhtyor	26	13	7	6	43	24	46
FC Gomel	26	13	5	8	36	24	44
Slavia Mozyr	26	13	5	8	49	27	44
Torpedo Minsk	26	10	7	9	31	32	37
Dnepr-Transmash	26	8	7	11	29	37	31
Molodechno	26	8	5	13	23	47	29
Dinamo Brest	26	8	5	13	26	38	29
Lokomotiv 96	26	4	7	15	18	51	19
Naftan	26	4	2	20	18	51	14
Vedrich-97	26	2	2	22	17	60	8

Relegated: Naftan, Vedrich-97
Promoted: Torpedo Zhodino, Zvezda VA BDU

BELGIUM

Sunday, November 11

Germinal Beerschot 2 (Haagdoren 64, Snelders 90)
Royal Antwerp 0 Att: 9,000

Saturday, November 24

Germinal Beerschot 3 (Degryse 32, 65, Mutavdzic 74)
Gent 2 (Oyawole 38, Gajser 42) Att: 9,200

Lokeren 1 (Kristinsson 66)
Beveren 0 Att: 6,500

Lommel 1 (Tankary 12)
Eendracht Aalst 1 (Aelbrecht 20) Att: 5,500

Mouscron 2 (Ban 12, 25)
La Louviere 0 Att: 10,500

St Truiden 0
Anderlecht 2 (Seol 51, 65) Att: 11,500

Standard 2 (Arst 28, Da Silva Moreira 88)
Lierse 1 (Sikimic 82) Att: 11,752

Westerlo 2 (Severeyns 61, 74)
Royal Antwerp 1 (Goots 86) Att: 5,000

Sunday, November 25

Charleroi 0
Club Brugge 4 (Verheyen 5, 22, 60, 64) Att: 13,500

RWDM 2 (Butera 73, Allou 89)
Genk 5 (Sonck 6, 40, 70, Wamfor 55, Vanbeuren 87) Att: 6,000

Wednesday, November 28

Anderlecht 0
Lokeren 0 Att: 22,425

Club Brugge 2 (Lange 35, 83)
St Truiden 0 Att: 15,560

Eendracht Aalst 2 (Stojak 6, pen 18)
RWDM 4 (Temmerman 43, Mitu 65, Origi 73, Allou 90)

Genk 2 (Thijs 78, Sonck 90)
Westerlo 0 Att: 19,321

Gent 2 (Vanic pen 6, Kraouche 52)
Standard 5 (Meyssen 14, Arst pen 22, 26, 87, Lukunku pen 32) Att: 10,103

La Louviere 3 (Buelinckx 41, 60, Djim 68)
Beveren 2 (Danilevicius 33, Zezeto 52)

Lierse 3 (Thompson 14, Frigard 21, Sels 90)
Mouscron 3 (Shekiladze og 1, Ban 15, Casto pen 86) Att: 5,500

Lommel 5 (Dekelver 8, 67, Tankary 37, 78, Baranyos 75)
Charleroi 1 (Eduardo 84) Att: 4,000

Saturday, December 1

Anderlecht 4 (Mornar 47, Ilic 60, Dindane 69, Stoica 90)
Mouscron 2 (Ban 28, 77) Att: 23,172

Beveren 1 (Danilevicius 47)
Germinal Beerschot 1 (Degryse 44) Att: 4,000

Genk 2 (Thijs pen 50, pen 57)
St Truiden 2 (Boffin pen 26, Mitrovic 28) Att: 20,728

Gent 0
Lommel 0 Att: 6,972

La Louviere 3 (Siquet 37, 63, Djim 90)
Westerlo 3 (Vandenbergh 14, Verheyen 84, 87) Att: 3,500

Lierse 1 (Gadiaga 9)
RWDM 2 (Fassotte 31, Kolotilko 67) Att: 6,000

Royal Antwerp 1 (Goots 17)
Lokeren 1 (Bangoura 71) Att: 4,000

Sunday, December 2

Club Brugge 1 (Lange 52)
Standard 3 (Arst 10, 79, Da Silva Moreira 30) Att: 18,000

Eendracht Aalst 1 (Dimbala 57)
Charleroi 1 (Emamifar 13) Att: 2,500

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	14	11	1	2	35	14	34
Genk	15	9	5	1	42	19	32
Gent	15	9	3	3	28	21	30
Standard	14	8	4	2	26	16	28
Lokeren	15	8	3	4	21	13	27
Anderlecht	14	7	5	2	29	16	26
G Beerschot	15	6	5	4	32	23	23
St Truiden	15	5	4	6	23	24	19
Lommel	15	4	6	5	27	31	18
Charleroi	15	5	3	7	14	26	18
Eendracht Aalst	15	5	3	7	17	30	18
RWDM	15	5	2	8	21	28	17
Mouscron	15	5	1	9	25	24	16
Westerlo	14	4	3	7	21	24	15
Lierse	15	3	5	7	19	24	14
Royal Antwerp	15	3	3	9	19	27	12
La Louviere	15	3	3	9	18	34	12
Beveren	15	1	5	9	13	36	8

LEADING GOALSCORERS
16 Wesley Sonck (Genk)
14 Rune Lange (Club Brugge)
11 Beli Moumouni (Genk)

BULGARIA

Nov 7: Lovech 2 Levski 0.
Nov 9: Marek 1 Neftohimik 1; CSKA 1 Belasitsa 0.
Nov 10: Chernomorets 0 Lovech 2; Beroe 0 Levski 0; Slavia 0 Cherno More 0; Spartak Pleven 1 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0; Spartak Varna 0 Lokomotiv Sofia 0.
Nov 16: Cherno More 1 Levski 2; Belasitsa 0 Spartak Varna 0; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 3 Chernomorets 2; Lokomotiv Sofia 4 Marek 0; CSKA 3 Beroe 0; Neftohimik 0 Spartak Pleven 1.
Nov 17: Lovech 4 Slavia 1.
Nov 23: Slavia 0 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2; Marek 2 Belasitsa 2.
Nov 24: Beroe 3 Cherno More 1; Chernomorets 3 Neftohimik 2; Spartak Pleven 2 Lokomotiv Sofia 0; Spartak Varna 1 CSKA 2.
Dec 1: Belasitsa 2 Spartak Pleven 1; Lovech 3 Cherno More 2; Lokomotiv Sofia 6 Chernomorets 1; Spartak Varna 3 Beroe 1; CSKA 2 Marek 1; Neftohimik 1 Slavia 0.
Dec 2: Lokomotiv Plovdi 0 Levski 1.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	17	12	3	2	33	10	39
Levski	16	12	3	1	29	10	39
Lovech	16	11	4	1	35	18	37
Lok Plovdiv	17	9	3	5	25	16	30
Neftohimik	17	8	5	4	26	14	29
Spartak Pleven	17	8	2	7	30	26	26
Lok Sofia	17	5	5	7	24	21	20
Spartak Varna	17	4	7	6	22	22	19
Slavia	17	4	6	7	14	21	18
Belasitsa	17	4	4	9	14	21	16
Cherno More	17	4	3	10	18	24	15
Chernomorets	17	3	5	9	12	37	14
Marek	17	3	4	10	15	33	13
Beroe	17	2	4	11	7	31	10

CROATIA

Nov 17: Cibalia 1 Osijek 0; Cakovec 1 Varteks 1; Hrvatski drag 3 Rijeka 0; Slaven 3 Hajduk 1; Dinamo 3 Marsonia 1.
Nov 18: Sibenik 2 Zadar 0; Pomorac 4 TSK 0; Kamen Ingrad 1 Zagreb 0.
Nov 24: Dinamo 3 TSK 2; Slaven 2 Rijeka 2; Cakovec 3 Marsonia 1; Hrvatski drag 0 Zagreb 1.
Nov 25: Osijek 1 Hajduk 2; Kamen Ingrad 1 Varteks 2; Sibenik 1 Cibalia 1; Pomorac 2 Zadar 0.
Nov 28: Cibalia 4 Pomorac 3; Sibenik 1 Osijek 0; Marsonia 1 Kamen Ingrad 0; Zadar 1 Dinamo 2; Zagreb 2 Slaven 0; TSK 1 Cakovec 3; Rijeka 1 Hajduk 2; Varteks 2 Hrvatski drag 0.
Dec 1: Cakovec 3 Zadar 0; Slaven 2 Varteks 2.
Dec 2: Hrvatski drag 2 Marsonia 0; Osijek 1 Rijeka 0; Pomorac 0 Sibenik 0; Dinamo 2 Cibalia 1; Kamen Ingrad 1 TSK 0; Hajduk 0 Zagreb 2.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zagreb	18	14	3	1	47	15	45
Varteks	18	12	3	3	40	20	39
Hajduk	17	12	1	4	36	20	37
Dinamo	18	11	3	4	30	19	36
Rijeka	18	9	3	6	27	20	30
Slaven	18	6	7	5	21	20	25
Cakovec	18	7	4	7	22	24	25
Hrvatski drag	18	6	5	7	22	26	23
Pomorac	18	6	3	9	22	25	21
Marsonia	18	6	2	10	20	25	20
Osijek	17	6	1	10	22	27	19
Zadar	18	4	6	8	21	32	18
Kamen Ingrad	18	4	5	9	15	27	17
Sibenik	18	4	5	9	12	25	17
Cibalia	18	4	3	11	17	28	15
TSK	18	4	2	12	26	47	14

CZECH REPUBLIC

Nov 17: Bohemians 2 Sparta 1.
Nov 18: Hradec Kralove 1 Drnovice 0; Jablonec 1 Zizkov 0; Slavia 0 Olomouc 0; Ostrava 1 Pribram 1; Teplice 1 Opava 0; Brno 0 Liberec 3; Synot 0 Chmel Blsany 1.
Nov 23: Olomouc 2 Ostrava 1.
Nov 25: Chmel Blsany 0 Hradec Kralove 2; Sparta 3 Synot 1; Liberec 3 Bohemians 2; Opava 2 Brno 1; Pribram 1 Teplice 0; Zizkov 1 Slavia 0; Drnovice 1 Jablonec 1.
Nov 30: Drnovice 2 Slavia 2; Sparta 4 Chmel Blsany 0.
Dec 2: Zizkov 1 Ostrava 0; Pribram 1 Brno 2; Opava 0 Bohemians 1; Hradec Kralove 2 Jablonec 2; Sigma Olomouc 0 Teplice 2; Liberec 4 Synot 1.

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta	16	13	0	3	37	9	39
Zizkov	16	12	1	3	26	11	37
Bohemians	16	11	3	2	27	11	36
Liberec	16	9	5	2	31	15	32
Ostrava	16	7	4	5	23	18	25
Slavia	16	7	3	6	27	23	24
Brno	16	6	4	6	18	27	22
Jablonec	16	5	6	5	14	15	21
Hradec Kralove	16	6	2	8	19	29	20
Teplice	16	5	3	8	17	22	18
Olomouc	16	4	6	6	13	20	18
Drnovice	16	4	4	8	20	21	16
Synot	16	4	4	8	14	23	16
Pribram	16	4	3	9	15	24	15
Chmel Blsany	16	4	1	11	19	32	13
Opava	16	2	1	13	12	32	7

DENMARK

Nov 12: Vejle 1 Viborg 2.
Nov 18: Silkeborg 2 AaB 0; Esbjerg 0 Brondby 2; Vejle 0 AGF 3; FC Copenhagen 2 Viborg 1; Lyngby 0 AB 1.
Nov 19: OB 2 Midtjylland 1.
Nov 25: Midtjylland 5 Vejle 0; Brondby 0 Silkeborg 1; AaB 4 Lyngby 0; AB 2 FC Copenhagen 2; Viborg 1 OB 1.
Nov 26: AGF 1 Esbjerg 6.
Dec 1: FC Copenhagen 3 AaB 0.
Dec 2: Esbjerg 0 Vejle 2; OB 2 AB 2; Viborg 2 Midtjylland 1; Lyngby 2 Brondby 2.
Dec 3: Silkeborg 1 AGF 0.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brondby	18	12	4	2	44	11	40
FC Copenhagen	18	9	6	3	29	16	33
AB	18	8	8	2	30	18	32
AaB	18	9	3	6	28	27	30
Esbjerg	18	9	2	7	28	26	29
Midtjylland	18	6	7	5	25	17	25
OB	18	6	7	5	27	27	25
Viborg	18	4	8	6	21	23	20
Vejle	18	4	4	10	22	45	16
Lyngby	18	2	8	8	18	32	14
AGF	18	3	5	10	18	33	14
Silkeborg	18	3	4	11	14	29	13

ENGLAND

Saturday, November 17

Aston Villa 0
Middlesbrough 0 Att: 35,424

Blackburn 1 (Jansen 52)
Liverpool 1 (Owen 30) Att: 28,859

Derby 1 (Mawene 25)
Southampton 0 Att: 32,063

Fulham 3 (Saha 20, Legwinski 28, Hayles 70)
Newcastle 1 (Speed 65) Att: 21,159

Man Utd 2 (Van Nistelrooy 21, Yorke 50)
Leicester 0 Att: 67,651

Tottenham 1 (Poyet 90)
Arsenal 1 (Pires 81) Att: 36,049

Sunday, November 18

Everton 0
Chelsea 0 Att: 30,555

Ipswich 1 (Holland 45)
Bolton 2 (Bergsson 6, Ricketts 25) Att: 22,335

Sunderland 2 (Arca 48, Phillips 55)
Leeds 0 Att: 48,005

Monday, November 19

Charlton 4 (Euell 21, 28, Johansson 51, 90)
West Ham 4 (Kitson 3, 30, 64, Defoe 84) Att: 23,198

Saturday, November 24

Bolton 0
Fulham 0 Att: 23,848

Chelsea 0
Blackburn 0 Att: 37,978

Leicester 0
Everton 0 Att: 21,539

Newcastle 1 (Shearer pen 30)
Derby 0 Att: 50,070

Southampton 1 (Pahars 59)
Charlton 0 Att: 31,198

West Ham 0
Tottenham 1 (Ferdinand 50) Att: 32,780

Sunday, November 25

Arsenal 3 (Ljungberg 48, Henry 80, 85)
Man Utd 1 (Scholes 14) Att: 38,174

Leeds 1 (Smith 17)
Aston Villa 1 (Kachloul 35) Att: 40,159

Liverpool 1 (Heskey 21)
Sunderland 0 Att: 43,537

Middlesbrough 0
Ipswich 0 Att: 32,586

Saturday, December 1

Aston Villa 0
Leicester 2 (Akinbiyi 12, Scowcroft 51) Att: 30,711

Blackburn 0
Middlesbrough 1 (Boksic 45) Att: 23,849

Charlton 1 (MacDonald 83)
Newcastle 1 (Speed 73) Att: 24,151

Derby 0
Liverpool 1 (Owen 6) Att: 33,289

Ipswich 0
Arsenal 2 (Ljungberg 5, Henry pen 56) Att: 24,666

Man Utd 0
Chelsea 3 (Melchiot 6, Hasselbaink 64, Gudjohnsen 86) Att: 67,544

Sunderland 1 (Phillips 85)
West Ham 0 Att: 47,437

Sunday, December 2

Everton 2 (Radzinski 50, Pembridge 86)
Southampton 0 Att: 28,138

Fulham 0
Leeds 0 Att: 20,918

Monday, December 3

Tottenham 3 (Poyet 47, Ferdinand 48, Sheringham 86)
Bolton 2 (Ricketts 8, Wallace 56) Att: 32,971

Wednesday, December 5

Chelsea 0
Charlton 1 (Lisbie 89) Att: 33,504

West Ham 1 (Defoe 90)
Aston Villa 1 (Dublin 1) Att: 28,377

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	13	9	2	2	23	11	29
Arsenal	14	7	5	2	30	15	26
Leeds	14	6	7	1	16	8	25
Newcastle	14	7	3	4	24	18	24
Tottenham	15	7	3	5	24	20	24
Aston Villa	15	6	6	3	19	15	24
Chelsea	15	5	8	2	19	12	23
Man Utd	14	6	3	5	31	26	21
Everton	14	5	5	4	20	17	20
Bolton	15	5	5	5	20	20	20
Blackburn	15	4	7	4	21	17	19
Fulham	14	4	7	3	15	13	19
Sunderland	15	5	4	6	13	15	19
Middlesbrough	15	5	4	6	17	20	19
Charlton	15	4	6	5	18	19	18
West Ham	15	4	4	7	17	28	16
Leicester	15	3	4	8	9	25	13
Southampton	14	3	1	10	11	24	10
Derby	14	2	4	8	10	24	10
Ipswich	15	1	6	8	14	24	9

LEADING GOALSCORERS

13	Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
11	Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Chelsea)
10	Michael Ricketts (Bolton)
8	Michael Owen (Liverpool)
7	Kevin Phillips (Sunderland)
7	Fabrizio Ravanelli (Derby)
6	Alen Boksic (Middlesbrough)
6	Marian Pahars (Southampton)
6	Alan Shearer (Newcastle)

ESTONIA

Relegation/promotion play-off

1st leg
Nov 12: Valga 2 Lootus 1.

2nd leg
Nov 17: Lootus 1 Valga 0
Agg 2-2. Lootus on away goals
Lootus (2nd bottom in Division One) stay up; Valga (2nd in Division Two) stay in same division

FAROE ISLANDS

Relegation/promotion play-off

Skala (2nd in Division Two) beat B71 (2nd bottom in Division One) 4-2 on agg (0-1, 4-1) to go up and send B71 down.

FINLAND

Relegation/promotion play-off

1st leg
Nov 7: Jaro 1 Jokerit 1.

2nd leg
Nov 11: Jokerit 3 Jaro 4
Jaro 5-4 on agg
Jaro (2nd in Division Two) go up; Jokerit (2nd bottom in Division One) go down

FINNISH CUP – FINAL

Nov 12 - Tammela stadium, Tampere
Atlantis 1 (Adriano 62)
Tampere Utd 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,820

FRANCE

Friday, November 16

Monaco 1 (Nonda pen 54)
Marseille 1 (Bakayoko 70) Att: 15,000

Saturday, November 17

Auxerre 2 (Cisse 38, Lachuer 83)
Lille 1 (Kapo og 90) Att: 13,000

Bordeaux 2 (Pauleta 15, Christian 69)
Troyes 3 (Gousse 45, 62, Loko 50) Att: 25,209

Lens 1 (Blanchard 11)
Sedan 0 Att: 37,968

Lorient 0
Lyon 3 (Carriere 8, Anderson 30, Govou 32) Att: 12,821

Montpellier 2 (Mansare 20, Maoulida 60)
Bastia 1 (Lambourde 76) Att: 11,305

Paris SG 1 (Hugo Leal 58)
Guingamp 1 (Saci 86) Att: 40,069

Rennes 2 (Monterrubio pen 51, Reveillere 76)
Nantes 0 Att: 21,000

Sochaux 2 (Santos 33, Trapasso 77)
Metz 0 Att: 14,693

Saturday, November 24

Bastia 1 (Vairelles 62)
Bordeaux 2 (Pauleta 45, pen 52) Att: 6,088

Guingamp 2 (Guivarc'h 21, Baret 67)
Montpellier 2 (Al. Cisse 41, Abd. Cisse 76) Att: 10,681

Marseille 4 (Andre Luiz 26, Bakayoko 34, 53, Swierczewski 81)
Sochaux 2 (Meriem 18, Pagis 48) Att: 45,000

Metz 1 (Jager 90)
Monaco 0 Att: 15,557

Sedan 5 (Le Lan og 11, N'Diefi 23, Camara 30, 34, Gauvin og 64)
Lorient 0 Att: 12,500

Troyes 1 (Celestini 49)
Lens 1 (Moreira 44) Att: 15,314

Sunday, November 25

Lille 1 (N'Diaye 50)
Rennes 0 Att: 15,000

Lyon 3 (Chanelet 14, Luyindula 44, Violeau 82)
Auxerre 0 Att: 39,165

Nantes 1 (Bonilla 31)
Paris SG 2 (Ogbeche 55, Ronaldinho 62) Att: 36,000

Wednesday, November 28

Bordeaux 2 (Pauleta 25, 90)
Guingamp 0 Att: 26,000

Lens 7 (Penneteau og 6, Pedron 18, Moreira 44, Diouf pen 56, Ismael 62, Blanchard 77, Sibierski 90)
Bastia 0 Att: 32,500

Lorient 1 (Guel 20)
Nantes 2 (Andre 73, Vahirua 85) Att: 18,000

Monaco 2 (Bierhoff 43, Nonda pen 60)
Lille 2 (Bakari 18, Bruno Cheyrou pen 72) Att: 2,500

Montpellier 3 (Abd. Cisse 1, Maoulida 46, Bamogo 69)
Lyon 0 Att: 19,500

Rennes 0
Metz 0 Att: 17,500

Sochaux 1 (Pagis 72)
Auxerre 2 (Lachuer 7, Cisse 83) Att: 18,500

Troyes 1 (Loko 12)
Sedan 1 (Celdran 32) Att: 14,500

Thursday, November 29

Paris SG 0
Marseille 0 Att: 42,178

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lens	16	10	5	1	30	12	35
Lyon	16	9	3	4	31	16	30
Lille	16	8	6	2	20	13	30
Auxerre	16	8	5	3	24	18	29
Bordeaux	16	7	6	3	15	9	27
Troyes	16	7	4	5	21	18	25
Paris SG	16	5	9	2	18	13	24
Sochaux	16	6	5	5	24	20	23
Montpellier	16	4	7	5	15	14	19
Marseille	16	4	7	5	13	13	19
Rennes	16	5	3	8	16	25	18
Monaco	16	4	5	7	16	18	17
Metz	16	5	2	9	9	16	17
Guingamp	16	4	5	7	14	26	17
Bastia	16	5	1	10	15	27	16
Sedan	16	3	6	7	18	20	15
Lorient	16	4	3	9	23	33	15
Nantes	16	3	4	9	12	23	13

LEADING GOALSCORERS

11 Pauleta (Bordeaux)
10 Djibril Cisse (Auxerre)
10 Jean-Claude Darcheville (Lorient)
9 Daniel Moreira (Lens)
8 Shabani Nonda (Monaco)
7 Pierre-Alain Frau (Sochaux)
7 Olivier Monterrubio (Rennes)
6 Ibrahima Bakayoko (Marseille)
6 Bruno Cheyrou (Lille)
6 Mickael Pagis (Sochaux)

GERMANY

Saturday, November 17

Hamburg 0
Schalke 0 Att: 55,300

Hertha 2 (Sarpei og 21, Goor 82)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 27,400

Kaiserslautern 5 (Lokvenc 40, H Koch 45, Klose 60, 78, Lincoln 71)
St Pauli 1 (Marcao 30) Att: 38,000

Koln 1 (Kurth 59)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Kirsten 63, Neuville 72) Att: 41,000

1860 Munich 1 (Hassler 78)
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Ewerthon 61, Koller 70, Amoroso pen 81) Att: 27,200

Stuttgart 3 (Meissner 4, Tiffert 75, Seitz 90)
Freiburg 0 Att: 34,000

Werder Bremen 1 (Skrypnyk pen 41)
Bayern Munich 0 Att: 36,000

Sunday, November 18

Borussia MG 0
Energie Cottbus 0 Att: 27,800

Nurnberg 2 (Michalke 51, Maul og 86)
Hansa Rostock 0 Att: 20,000

Saturday, November 24

Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Ballack 13, Neuville 27, 59, 63)
Hamburg 1 (Albertz 7) Att: 22,500

Bayern Munich 0
Nurnberg 0 Att: 63,000

Energie Cottbus 0
Stuttgart 0 Att: 13,780

Hansa Rostock 1 (Rydlewicz pen 67)
Hertha 1 (Rehmer 82) Att: 14,252

Schalke 1 (Sand 59)
Werder Bremen 4 (Bode 20, Ailton 28, Lisztes 47, Skrypnyk pen 49) Att: 60,204

St Pauli 1 (Gibbs 88)
Koln 2 (Sinkala 29, Zellweger 31) Att: 20,735

Wolfsburg 3 (Maric 6, Petrov 22, Ponte 58)
Borussia MG 1 (Van Houdt 64) Att: 14,493

Sunday, November 25

Borussia Dortmund 3 (Ewerthon 77, Amoroso pen 86, 90)
Kaiserslautern 0 Att: 67,000

Freiburg 1 (Zeyer 28)
1860 Munich 3 (Borimirov 23, Hassler 40, Schroth 67) Att: 24,500

Saturday, December 1

Hansa Rostock 1 (Beierle 89)
Wolfsburg 2 (Maric 33, 65) Att: 12,000

Kaiserslautern 3 (Klose 31, 52, Ramzy 47)
Freiburg 0 Att: 38,248

Koln 0
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Amoroso pen 17, Ewerthon 42) Att: 42,000

1860 Munich 1 (Max 71)
Energie Cottbus 0 Att: 18,600

Nurnberg 0
Schalke 3 (Hajto pen 61, Sand 89, 90) Att: 40,000

Stuttgart 1 (Wenzel 48)
Borussia MG 1 (Kuntzel 90) Att: 25,000

Werder Bremen 2 (Bode 39, Verlaat 58)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Schneider 38) Att: 32,100

Sunday, December 2

Hamburg 4 (Meijer 4, Fukal 8, Benjamin 45, Barbarez 52)
St Pauli 3 (Meggle 47, Trulsen 79, pen 82) Att: 54,000

Hertha 2 (Neuendorf 71, Dardai 84)
Bayern Munich 1 (N Kovac 46) Att: 52,000

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B Leverkusen	15	11	3	1	38	17	36
B Dortmund	15	11	1	3	26	9	34
Bayern Munich	15	10	2	3	31	7	32
Kaiserslautern	15	10	1	4	33	20	31
Werder Bremen	15	9	2	4	24	16	29
Hertha	15	8	3	4	25	19	27
Schalke	15	7	4	4	19	17	25
Stuttgart	15	6	5	4	18	15	23
1860 Munich	15	6	2	7	20	27	20
Wolfsburg	15	5	3	7	23	21	18
Hamburg	15	4	4	7	19	25	16
Freiburg	15	4	4	7	19	26	16
Borussia MG	15	3	6	6	17	22	15
Hansa Rostock	15	3	4	8	13	22	13
Energie Cottbus	15	3	4	8	13	26	13
Koln	15	3	2	10	11	28	11
Nurnberg	15	3	2	10	10	27	11
St Pauli	15	1	4	10	16	31	7

LEADING GOALSCORERS

10 Marcio Amoroso (Borussia Dortmund)
8 Michael Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen)
8 Claudio Pizarro (Bayern Munich)
7 Giovane Elber (Bayern Munich)
7 Ulf Kirsten (Bayer Leverkusen)
6 Ailton (Werder Bremen)
6 Miroslav Klose (Kaiserslautern)
6 Marcelinho (Hertha)
6 Oliver Neuville (Bayer Leverkusen)

GREECE

Nov 18: Ionikos 1 Panionios 1; Akratitos 3 Panahaiki 1; PAOK 3 Aigaleo 1; OFI 0 AEK 1; Panathinaikos 2 Aris 1; Iraklis 0 Ethnikos A 0; Olympiakos 1 Xanthi 1.
Nov 24: Aris 1 OFI 0; Ethnikos A 2 Olympiakos 4.
Nov 25: Panionios 2 Panahaiki 0; Aigaleo 2 Ionikos 2; AEK 3 Akratitos 0; Xanthi 1 PAOK 0; Iraklis 2 Panathinaikos 1.
Dec 1: Olympiakos 2 Panathinaikos 2; OFI 1 Iraklis 0.
Dec 2: Aigaleo 0 Panionios 1; Ionikos 1 Xanthi 1; PAOK 2 Ethnikos A 1; Akratitos 0 Aris 1; Panahaiki 0 AEK 1.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK	8	7	0	1	15	3	21
Olympiakos	8	5	3	0	22	9	18
Aris	8	4	3	1	10	6	15
OFI	8	4	1	3	8	9	13
Panathinaikos	8	3	3	2	20	10	12
PAOK	8	3	3	2	12	10	12
Xanthi	8	3	3	2	10	8	12
Iraklis	8	3	2	3	9	11	11
Panionios	8	2	4	2	10	11	10
Akratitos	8	2	2	4	8	10	8
Ethnikos A	8	2	2	4	9	13	8
Ionikos	8	0	5	3	7	14	5
Panahaiki	8	1	1	6	7	21	4
Aigaleo	8	0	2	6	9	21	2

HOLLAND

Friday, November 16

Heerenveen 3 (Zijm og 31, Allback 42, Denneboom 55)
Sparta 0 Att: 14,200

Saturday, November 17

AZ 0
RKC 1 (Cornelisse 84) Att: 7,261

Den Bosch 1 (Michels 61)
Twente 3 (Van de Paar 22, Van der Leegte 69, Polak pen 72) Att: 4,722

Feyenoord 3 (Van Hooijdonk 26, Tomasson 39, 52)
Vitesse 2 (Van Beukering 27, Sikora 55) Att: 40,500

PSV 3 (Bouma 3, Ooijer pen 53, Rommedahl 87)
NEC 1 (Simr 34) Att: 31,000

Willem II 1 (Bombarda 54)
Roda JC 1 (Mathijsen og 60) Att: 13,600

Sunday, November 18

Ajax 1 (Van der Vaart 8)
NAC 3 (Cristiano 31, 63, Stewart 51) Att: 33,000

Groningen 4 (Drent 23, 26, Hugo 85, Curovic 90)
Fortuna Sittard 2 (Cramb 3, Landerl 36) Att: 12,550

Utrecht 6 (Kuijt 6, 38, Van den Bergh 16, 58, Zwaanswijk 49, Van Mol 85)
De Graafschap 0 Att: 13,000

Friday, November 23

AZ 3 (El Khattabi 10, Van Galen 44, Nelisse 88)
Den Bosch 2 (Uneken 15, De Freitas 25) Att: 6,630

Saturday, November 24

De Graafschap 3 (Meerdink 11, Van Vossen 70, Valeev 88)
Sparta 0 Att: 11,000

Fortuna 1 (Gerritsen 73)
RKC 4 (Cornelisse 21, Fuchs 30, Janssen 40, Van Wanrooy 54) Att: 7,000

NAC 5 (Feher pen 12, Allach og 38, Peto 55, Stewart 60, Sergio 70)
Groningen 0 Att: 12,549

Twente 0
Heerenveen 0 Att: 13,300

Vitesse 2 (Van der Schaaf 7, Sikora 71)
Roda JC 0 Att: 23,000

Sunday, November 25

Ajax 1 (Bergdolmo pen 87)
PSV 3 (Kezman 7, Lucius 13, Rommedahl 80) Att: 43,432

Feyenoord 3 (Van Hooijdonk 43, 67, 75)
Willem II 1 (Landzaat 57) Att: 39,700

NEC 0
Utrecht 3 (De Jong 53, Tanghe 64, Van den Bergh 72) Att: 10,500

Tuesday, November 27

Den Bosch 3 (De Freitas 1, Van den Eede pen 56, 70)
De Graafschap 1 (Van Vossen 9) Att: 4,375

Groningen 0
AZ 1 (Nelisse 88) Att: 12,462

Wednesday, November 28

Ajax 3 (Van der Meyde 53, Van der Vaart 76, Wamberto 86)
Twente 2 (De Gier 4, 15) Att: 30,800

NEC 1 (Latuheru 52)
NAC 3 (Sergio 50, 90, Salmon 85) Att: 10,500

RKC 2 (Hoogendorp pen 53, 62)
Feyenoord 3 (Smolarek 34, 75, Bosvelt 45) Att: 6,400

Roda JC 1 (Anastasiou 72)
Fortuna 0 Att: 15,000

Sparta 3 (Koevermans 26, 48, 57)
Willem II 2 (Shoukov 8, 11) Att: 6,106

Utrecht 3 (Nikiforov og 4, Gluscevic 50, Zwaanswijk 57)
PSV 3 (Kezman 34, 80, Vennegoor of Hesselink 62) Att: 13,500

Friday, November 30

De Graafschap 1 (Van Vossen 76)
Groningen 2 (Boussaboun 14, Allach 81) Att: 10,900

Saturday, December 1

Heerenveen 1 (Lurling pen 64)
Feyenoord 0 Att: 14,500

PSV 3 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 14, 76, Vogel 56)
AZ 0 Att: 31,000

RKC 3 (Fuchs 43, Van Wanrooy 59, Govedarica 72)
Roda JC 0 Att: 5,500

Twente 1 (Van der Laan 2)
Fortuna 1 (Cramb 83) Att: 13,300

Sunday, December 2

Sparta 0
NEC 0 Att: 9,000

Utrecht 3 (Gluscevic 22, 80, Tanghe 49)
Vitesse 1 (Diarra 39) Att: 13,500

Willem II 2 (Janssens 21, Bombarda 63)
NAC 2 (Cristiano 65, Gudelj 75) Att: 14,200

Tuesday, December 4

Ajax 4 (Bergdolmo pen 14, Machlas 28, Ibrahimovic 68, 79)
Fortuna 0 Att: 31,502

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	15	10	2	3	35	18	32
Feyenoord	14	10	1	3	31	11	31
Heerenveen	15	8	4	3	27	10	28
NAC	16	8	4	4	30	24	28
Utrecht	16	8	3	5	32	21	27
PSV	16	8	3	5	31	23	27
Vitesse	15	7	5	3	16	10	26
RKC	16	7	2	7	24	19	23
AZ	16	6	2	8	18	21	20
Willem II	16	4	7	5	24	26	19
NEC	16	5	4	7	13	25	19
De Graafschap	16	5	2	9	20	30	17
Groningen	16	5	2	9	18	29	17
Sparta	16	4	5	7	17	33	17
Den Bosch	15	3	7	5	21	23	16
Twente	15	3	7	5	17	21	16
Roda JC	16	4	3	9	15	24	15
Fortuna	15	2	3	10	13	34	9

LEADING GOALSCORERS

11 Rafael Van der Vaart (Ajax)
11 Pierre Van Hooijdonk (Feyenoord)
10 Jon Dahl Tomasson (Feyenoord)
9 Marcus Allback (Heerenveen)
9 Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (PSV)
8 Cristiano (NAC)
8 Igor Gluscevic (Utrecht)
8 Rick Hoogendorp (RKC)
8 Mateja Kezman (PSV)
8 Stefaan Tanghe (Utrecht)

HUNGARY

Nov 9: Ferencvaros 0 Dunaferr 3.
Nov 10: Debrecen 2 Haladas 0; Vasas 1 Videoton 3; Gyor 1 Matav 3; MTK 3 Ujpest 0; Zalaegerszeg 2 Kispest-Honved 2.
Nov 17: Videoton 1 Gyor 2; Dunaferr 4 Vasas 1; Haladas 1 Ferencvaros 3; Matav 0 MTK 0; Kispest-Honved 1 Debrecen 1.
Nov 18: Ujpest 1 Zalaegerszeg 4.
Nov 20: Debrecen 0 Ferencvaros 1.
Nov 21: Vasas 2 Haladas 1; Gyor 2 Dunaferr 2; MTK 1 Videoton 0; Zalaegerszeg 4 Matav 1; Kispest-Honved 1 Ujpest 0.
Nov 24: Haladas 1 Gyor 2; Ferencvaros 2 Vasas 0; Matav 2 Kispest-Honved 3; Videoton 1 Zalaegerszeg 1; Ujpest 2 Debrecen 2.
Nov 25: Dunaferr 2 MTK 0.
Dec 1: Debrecen 2 Vasas 2; MTK 5 Haladas 1; Zalaegerszeg 1 Dunaferr 1; Kispest-Honved 3 Videoton 0.
Dec 2: Gyor 1 Ferencvaros 1.
Dec 5: Vasas 1 Gyor 1; Videoton 4 Ujpest 1; Dunaferr 4 Kispest-Honved 0; Haladas 0 Zalaegerszeg 1; Ferencvaros 1 MTK 3; Matav 2 Debrecen 2.

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MTK	22	17	3	2	46	13	54
Zalaegerszeg	22	13	4	5	44	26	43
Dunaferr	22	10	7	5	43	23	37
Videoton	22	10	6	6	29	26	36
Ferencvaros	22	10	4	8	34	30	34
Ujpest	21	7	5	9	37	39	26
Kispest-Honved	22	7	5	10	30	41	26
Debrecen	22	5	10	7	26	31	25
Matav	21	6	5	10	32	40	23
Gyor	22	4	9	9	27	38	21
Haladas	22	4	7	11	23	44	19
Vasas	22	4	3	15	24	44	15

ITALY

Saturday, November 17

Roma 0
Inter 0 Att: 69,403

Sunday, November 18

Atalanta 1 (Rossini 29)
Venezia 0 Att: 15,141

Fiorentina 0
Torino 0 Att: 16,364

Juventus 3 (Trezeguet 9, 90, Del Piero 75)
Parma 1 (Lamouchi 23) Att: 38,355

Lecce 1 (Cirillo 36)
Bologna 0 Att: 11,991

Milan 0
Piacenza 0 Att: 50,927

Perugia 1 (Ze Maria pen 19)
Brescia 1 (Toni 6) Att: 6,469

Udinese 1 (Caballero 77)
Lazio 4 (Crespo 54, Liverani 74, Claudio Lopez 85, Fernando Couto 89) Att: 14,824

Verona 3 (Oddo pen 40, Lanna og 71, Camoranesi 73)
Chievo 2 (Eriberto 33, Corini pen 37) Att: 38,356

Saturday, November 24

Lazio 1 (Liverani 49)
Juventus 0 Att: 60,422

Sunday, November 25

Bologna 1 (Wome 38)
Roma 3 (Samuel 3, Batistuta 16, Assuncao 41) Att: 24,577

Brescia 2 (Giunti 15, A Filippini 39)
Udinese 0 Att: 12,836

Chievo 2 (Corini pen 27, D'Anna 77)
Perugia 0 Att: 8,938

Inter 2 (Kallon 42, Vieri pen 55)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 53,704

Parma 0
Milan 1 (Inzaghi 30) Att: 22,527

Piacenza 1 (Hubner pen 7)
Atalanta 2 (Doni 59, 82) Att: 8,509

Torino 5 (Ferrante 71, 88, Vergassola 75, Galante 77, Lucarelli 85)
Verona 1 (Mutu 11) Att: 15,134

Venezia 1 (Di Napoli 58)
Lecce 1 (Konan 71) Att: 7,422

Saturday, December 1

Juventus 2 (Nedved 52, Trezeguet 76)
Perugia 0 Att: 37,283

Sunday, December 2

Atalanta 2 (Doni 15, pen 22)
Inter 4 (Di Biagio 8, Vieri pen 60, 75, Kallon 79) Att: 21,774

Bologna 1 (Olive 5)
Torino 0 Att: 30,476

Fiorentina 1 (Benin 77)
Piacenza 3 (Poggi 1, Hubner 84, Statuto 87) Att: 20,024

Lecce 1 (Cirillo 67)
Lazio 2 (Crespo pen 59, Inzaghi 63) Att: 13,056

Milan 3 (Inzaghi 14, Shevchenko pen 58, 65)
Chievo 2 (Marazzina 26, Corradi 29) Att: 60,265

Roma 1 (Fuser 90)
Venezia 0 Att: 53,097

Udinese 3 (Muzzi 25, pen 33, Jorgensen 54)
Parma 2 (Di Vaio 1, 4) Att: 13,235

Verona 2 (Frick 19, 46)
Brescia 0 Att: 15,320

ESM
EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES

ESM GOLDEN SHOE STANDINGS AT 06.12.01

pos	name	team	goals	factor	pts
1	Maksim Gruznov	Trans Narva (Est)	37	1	37
2	Ronald Brunmayr	Grazer AK (Aut)	22	1.5	33
3	Christian Gimenez	Lugano/Basle (Swi)	21	1.5	31.5
4	Dmitriy Vyazmikin	Torpedo Moscow (Rus)	18	1.5	27
5	Thierry Henry	Arsenal (Eng)	13	2	26
6	Thorstein Helstad	Brann Bergen (Nor)	17	1.5	25.5
	Frode Johnsen	Rosenborg (Nor)	17	1.5	25.5
	Clayton Zane	Lillestrom (Nor)	17	1.5	25.5
9	Sergei Davydov	Neman-Belkard (Bls)	25	1	25
10	Sasa Bjelanovic	Varteks (Cro)	16	1.5	24
	Mihails Miholaps	Skonto Riga (Lat)	24	1	24
	Ricardo Nunez	Grasshopper (Swi)	16	1.5	24
	Ivica Olic	Dinamo Zagreb (Cro)	16	1.5	24
	Wesley Sonck	Genk (Blg)	16	1.5	24
15	Aleksandr Katasonov	Metalurgs (Lat)	23	1	23
	Andrei Kirlov	Tallinna VMK (Est)	23	1	23
17	Harald Brattbakk	Rosenborg (Nor)	15	1.5	22.5
	Erik Nevland	Viking (Nor)	15	1.5	22.5
	Stefan Selakovic	Halmstads (Swe)	15	1.5	22.5
20	Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink	Chelsea (Eng)	11	2	22
	Pauleta	Bordeaux (Fra)	11	2	22
	Remigijus Pocius	FBK Kaunas (Lit)	22	1	22
	Paulus Roiha	HJK Helsinki (Fin)	22	1	22
24	David Chaladze	Skonto Riga (Lat)	21	1	21
	Andrei Fedkov	Sokol Saratov (Rus)	14	1.5	21
	Jostein Flo	Stromsgodset (Nor)	14	1.5	21
	Andreas Hermansson	Hammarby (Swe)	14	1.5	21
	Mario Jardel	Sporting Lisbon (Por)	14	1.5	21
	Arman Karamian	Pyunik Yerevan (Arm)	21	1	21
	Rune Lange	Club Brugge (Blg)	14	1.5	21
	James Obiorah	Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus)	14	1.5	21
	Serghei Rogaciov	Saturn (Rus)	14	1.5	21
	Maciej Zurawski	Wisla Krakow (Pol)	14	1.5	21

For the latest standings, updated twice weekly, visit www.worldsoccer.com

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	12	7	4	1	21	11	25
Chievo	12	7	2	3	24	14	23
Roma	12	6	5	1	18	8	23
Milan	12	6	4	2	21	14	22
Juventus	12	5	5	2	19	11	20
Lazio	12	5	5	2	15	7	20
Bologna	12	6	2	4	9	9	20
Verona	12	5	4	3	17	16	19
Brescia	12	4	5	3	18	20	17
Udinese	12	4	3	5	20	21	15
Atalanta	12	4	2	6	14	22	14
Torino	12	3	4	5	14	17	13
Lecce	12	3	4	5	13	18	13
Piacenza	12	3	3	6	16	17	12
Parma	12	2	5	5	13	17	11
Perugia	12	2	4	6	9	16	10
Fiorentina	12	3	1	8	15	26	10
Venezia	12	0	4	8	6	18	4

LEADING GOALSCORERS

10 Dario Hubner (Piacenza)
9 Cristiano Doni (Atalanta)
9 Roberto Muzzi (Udinese)
9 Andrii Shevchenko (Milan)
8 Roberto Baggio (Brescia)
8 Mohamed Kallon (Inter)

LATVIA

LATVIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skonto Riga	28	22	2	4	94	26	68
Ventspils	28	22	1	5	69	21	67
Metalurgs	28	20	4	4	60	24	64
Dinaburg	28	15	5	8	60	29	50
PFK/Daugava*	28	12	2	14	37	38	38
Valmiera	28	5	4	19	28	56	19
FK Riga	28	3	5	20	25	72	14
Zibens/Zem'dze	28	1	1	26	11	118	4

**Merger of Police FK and LU Daugava*
Relegated: Zibens/Zemessardze
Promoted: Auda Riga

LITHUANIA

LITHUANIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FBK Kaunas	36	26	7	3	76	13	85
Atlantas	36	19	12	5	66	29	69
Zalgiris Vilnius	36	20	9	7	64	39	69
Ekranas	36	15	10	10	58	38	55
Inkaras*	36	11	12	13	50	44	44
Gelezinis***	36	10	6	20	42	69	36
Nevezis	36	8	11	17	33	54	35
Sakalas**/***	36	7	13	16	32	61	34
Vetra Rudiskes	36	7	11	18	32	57	32
Dainava Alytus	36	7	9	20	34	83	30

**Formerly Atletas-Inkaras **Formerly Klevas*
****Promoted to top division at start of season after demotion of Kareda and Polonija, the feeder clubs of FBK Kaunas and Zalgiris Vilnius respectively, who were no longer allowed to play in the same division as their senior partners*
Relegated: Vetra Rudiskes, Dainava
Promoted: Polonija Vilnius, Suduva Marijampole

NORWAY

Relegation/promotion play-off

1st leg
Nov 7: Bryne 3 Hamarkameratene 0.

2nd leg
Nov 10: Hamarkameratene 0 Bryne 0
Bryne 3-0 on agg.

Bryne (3rd bottom in Division One) stay up; Hamarkameratene (3rd in Division Two) stay in same division

NORWEGIAN CUP – FINAL

Nov 4 - Ullevaal stadium, Oslo
Viking 3 (Eskeland og 4, Berre 56, Tihinen 72)
Bryne 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,823. **Ref:** Alseth

POLAND

CHAMPIONSHIP POOL

Nov 16: Legia 1 Katowice 0; Ruch Chorzow 3 Polonia 1.
Nov 17: Pogon 0 Amica 0.
Nov 18: Odra 0 Wisla 3.
Nov 23: Katowice 2 Ruch Chorzow 1.
Nov 24: Wisla 1 Pogon 0; Amica 2 Odra 1.
Nov 25: Polonia 0 Legia 0.

POLAND – CHAMPIONSHIP POOL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Wisla	2	2	0	0	4	0	20	[14]
Legia	2	1	1	0	1	0	18	[14]
Amica	2	1	1	0	2	1	16	[12]
Odra	2	0	0	2	1	5	16	[16]
Polonia	2	0	1	1	1	3	14	[13]
Ruch Chorzow	2	1	0	1	4	3	13	[10]
Pogon	2	0	1	1	0	1	13	[12]
Katowice	2	1	0	1	2	2	12	[9]

Teams carried forward half their points (figure in brackets) from regular season

PORTUGAL

Friday, November 23

Guimaraes 0
Setubal 0

Saturday, November 24

Alverca 1 (Vargas 19)
Salgueiros 2 (Toy 53, Jose Antonio og 75)

Sporting Braga 0
Benfica 1 (Mantorras 69)

Sunday, November 25

Farense 1 (Ferreira 4)
Beira Mar 0

Gil Vicente 2 (Manoel 77, Carlos pen 87)
FC Porto 5 (Deco 4, 28, Clayton 43, Capucho 65, Costinha 90)

Pacos Ferreira 2 (Carlos Carneiro 69, Pedrinha pen 86)
Maritimo 1 (Eric Gaucho 76)

Santa Clara 1 (Vitor Vieira 14)
Varzim 0

Uniao Leiria 3 (Derlei 6, Maciel 54, 85)
Belenenses 0

Monday, November 26

Sporting Lisbon 2 (Joao Pinto 22, Jardel pen 67)
Boavista 0

Friday, November 30

FC Porto 2 (Deco 11, Clayton 30)
Farense 0

Saturday, December 1

Maritimo 0
Sporting Lisbon 2 (Jardel pen 60, Pedro Barbosa 78)

Salgueiros 1 (Toy 82)
Boavista 1 (Sanchez 14)

Sunday, December 2

Alverca 1 (Caju pen 80)
Uniao Leiria 1 (Maciel 58)

Beira Mar 0
Guimaraes 0

Belenenses 1 (Jose Alfonso 84)
Gil Vicente 0

Benfica 2 (Simao pen 19, Mantorras 39)
Santa Clara 1 (Rui Gregorio 4)

Varzim 0
Pacos Ferreira 3 (Leonardo 15, 58, Mauro 44)

Monday, December 3

Setubal 0
Sporting Braga 0

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	13	9	1	3	27	10	28
Benfica	13	7	6	0	22	12	27
Sporting Lisbon	13	8	2	3	29	10	26
Boavista	13	8	2	3	24	11	26
Belenenses	13	6	2	5	17	18	20
Guimaraes	13	5	4	4	13	14	19
Uniao Leiria	13	4	6	3	18	13	18
Maritimo	13	6	0	7	17	16	18
Beira Mar	13	4	5	4	24	22	17
Sporting Braga	13	4	4	5	15	10	16
Setubal	13	4	4	5	17	15	16
Gil Vicente	13	4	3	6	14	21	15
Pacos Ferreira	13	3	5	5	15	23	14
Farense	13	4	2	7	9	19	14
Salgueiros	13	4	2	7	12	25	14
Santa Clara	13	3	4	6	10	18	13
Alverca	13	3	3	7	16	26	12
Varzim	13	2	3	8	10	26	9

LEADING GOALSCORERS
14 Mario Jardel (Sporting Lisbon)
11 Fary Faye (Beira Mar)
8 Leonardo (Pacos Ferreira)

ROMANIA

Nov 17: Otelul 0 Ceahlaul 0; Petrolul 0 UM Timisoara 2; Arges 1 Dinamo 2; Gloria 4 Sportul 1; National 2 Astra 1; U Craiova 3 Bacau 0.
Nov 18: Steaua 3 Farul 0; Brasov 3 Rapid 0.
Nov 24: UM Timisoara 2 Brasov 1; Dinamo 4 Petrolul 1; Farul 1 Arges 0; Astra 1 Gloria 0; Bacau 1 National 5; U Craiova 1 Otelul 0.
Nov 25: Rapid 1 Ceahlaul 3; Sportul 3 Steaua 1.
Dec 1: Otelul 2 Rapid 0; Ceahlaul 5 UM Timisoara 1; Petrolul 1 Farul 1; Arges 5 Sportul 1; Gloria 2 Bacau 0; National 1 U Craiova 1.
Dec 2: Brasov 1 Dinamo 1; Steaua 1 Astra 0.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	15	9	5	1	36	16	32
National	15	8	6	1	28	11	30
Steaua	15	9	1	5	27	17	28
U Craiova	15	6	5	4	23	19	23
Rapid*	15	8	3	4	23	16	22
Farul	15	6	4	5	20	21	22
Gloria	15	7	1	7	16	19	22
Ceahlaul	15	6	3	6	21	19	21
Otelul	15	5	5	5	14	11	20
Bacau	15	6	2	7	19	23	20
Brasov	15	5	4	6	17	17	19
Astra	15	3	6	6	15	16	15
Arges	15	4	3	8	14	23	15
Petrolul	15	3	4	8	14	28	13
Sportul	15	4	1	10	18	33	13
UM Timisoara	15	3	3	9	14	30	12

**5pts deducted for non-completion of fixture*

SCOTLAND

Saturday, November 10

Aberdeen 1 (Dadi 7)
Motherwell 0 Att: 11,490

Dundee Utd 0
Dunfermline 2 (Petrie 13, Crawford 63) Att: 6,214

Hearts 2 (McKenna 55, Fuller 72)
Dundee 0 Att: 10,374

Kilmarnock 0
St Johnstone 1 (Falconer 39) Att: 6,008

Saturday, November 17

Aberdeen 2 (Winters 89, Zerouali 90)
Hibernian 0 Att: 12,226

Dundee Utd 2 (Aljofree 63, Hamilton 74)
St Johnstone 1 (Connolly 65) Att: 6,624

Hearts 0
Celtic 1 (Larsson pen 44) Att: 15,570

Kilmarnock 2 (Boyd 40, Di Giacomo 77)
Motherwell 0 Att: 6,813

Livingston 1 (Wilson 57)
Dundee 0 Att: 6,112

Rangers 4 (Arveladze 6, 59, Flo 50, 55)
Dunfermline 0 Att: 48,554

Saturday, November 24

Dundee 1 (Mackay 80)
Hearts 1 (Webster 30) Att: 7,219

Dunfermline 1 (Petrie 69)
Dundee Utd 1 (McConalogue 87) Att: 4,891

Hibernian 0
Livingston 3 (Xausa 8, 34, Lowndes 86) Att: 11,146

Motherwell 3 (Pearson 8, Elliott 18, McFadden 83)
Aberdeen 2 (Winters 40, Zerouali 79) Att: 7,302

St Johnstone 1 (Russell 12)
Kilmarnock 0 Att: 3,711

Sunday, November 25

Celtic 2 (Valgaeren 58, Larsson pen 70)
Rangers 1 (Lovenkrands 77) Att: 59,609

Saturday, December 1

Aberdeen 1 (Winters 24)
St Johnstone 0 Att: 17,369

Celtic 3 (Hartson 11, 40, Lennon 72)
Hibernian 0 Att: 59,415

Dundee 0
Rangers 0 Att: 11,085

Hearts 1 (Simmons pen 90)
Dunfermline 1 (Nicholson 73) Att: 11,176

Kilmarnock 2 (Mahood 31, Hay 56)
Dundee Utd 0 Att: 6,130

Livingston 3 (Xausa 20, 40, Hammell og 23)
Motherwell 1 (McFadden 78) Att: 5,426

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	16	15	1	0	37	6	46
Rangers	16	10	4	2	36	11	34
Livingston	16	9	5	2	26	12	32
Aberdeen	17	9	2	6	27	24	29
Kilmarnock	17	6	3	8	17	20	21
Dundee	17	5	5	7	16	25	20
Dundee Utd	17	5	5	7	19	31	20
Hibernian	16	5	3	8	24	27	18
Hearts	17	5	3	9	20	23	18
Dunfermline	17	5	2	10	22	33	17
Motherwell	17	4	4	9	20	33	16
St Johnstone	17	2	3	12	12	31	9

LEADING GOALSCORERS
13 Tore Andre Flo (Rangers)
11 Henrik Larsson (Celtic)
8 Robbie Winters (Aberdeen)

SPAIN

Saturday, November 10

Sevilla 0
Betis 0 Att: 40,000

Sunday, November 11

Alaves 2 (Llorens pen 45, Magno 90)
Espanyol 1 (Tamudo pen 22) Att: 12,603

Barcelona 4 (Savioia 17, 87, Puyol 19, Kluivert pen 62)
Valladolid 0 Att: 25,000

Celta Vigo 2 (Caceres 33, Jesuli 79)
Athletic Bilbao 3 (Karanka 83, Etxeberria 87, Orbaiz 89) Att: 21,000

Osasuna 0
Valencia 0 Att: 17,601

Rayo Vallecano 3 (Arteaga 36, Peragon pen 46, Bolic 80)
Malaga 0 Att: 12,000

Real Sociedad 1 (De Paula 77)
Mallorca 2 (Campano 56, Riera 86) Att: 22,000

Tenerife 3 (Marioni 15, 47, Hugo Morales 71)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Victor 40) Att: 10,000

Villarreal 2 (Arruabarrena 19, Jorge Lopez 50)
Las Palmas 0 Att: 10,000

Zaragoza 2 (Yordi 22, Acuna 90)
Real Madrid 1 (Raul 57) Att: 32,000

Saturday, November 17

Deportivo La Coruna 3 (Makaay 35, 57, 74)
Real Sociedad 1 (Xabi Alonso 7) Att: 28,000

Las Palmas 0
Barcelona 0 Att: 17,000

Real Madrid 2 (Morientes 42, 53)
Sevilla 1 (Moises 75) Att: 65,000

Sunday, November 18

Alaves 1 (Pablo 4)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 14,102

Athletic Bilbao 0
Villarreal 0 Att: 30,000

Betis 2 (Joao Tomas 53, Amato pen 60)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 32,000

Espanyol 2 (Alex Fernandez 22, Posse 80)
Mallorca 1 (Luque 27) Att: 16,900

Malaga 2 (Dely Valdes 17, Zarate 45)
Osasuna 1 (Ivan Rosado 90) Att: 12,000

Valladolid 2 (Blanco pen 20, Fernando 70)
Zaragoza 0 Att: 12,000

Valencia 0
Tenerife 0 Att: 40,000

Saturday, November 24

Barcelona 1 (Rivaldo 58)
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Urzaiz 10, Ezquerro 80) Att: 50,000

Sunday, November 25

Celta Vigo 4 (Catanha 22, 54, Jesuli 36, Edu 79)
Espanyol 1 (Tamudo pen 18) Att: 21,000

Mallorca 4 (Luque 8, 26, Paunovic 51, Campano 79)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Pandiani 28) Att: 18,000

Osasuna 1 (Ivan Rosado 77)
Betis 2 (Benjamin 56, Contreras og 60) Att: 17,645

Rayo Vallecano 0
Real Madrid 3 (Raul 1, Morientes 26, 68) Att: 16,000

Real Sociedad 2 (Jankauskas 37, pen 65)
Valencia 0 Att: 27,000

Sevilla 4 (Moises pen 32, Reyes 55, Javi Casquero 68, 81)
Valladolid 0 Att: 25,000

Tenerife 1 (Slovak 56)
Malaga 0 Att: 12,500

Villarreal 1 (Victor 30)
Alaves 0 Att: 18,000

Zaragoza 2 (Yordi 12, Juanele 78)
Las Palmas 1 (Sarasua 90) Att: 25,000

Saturday, December 1

Alaves 2 (Llorens pen 22, Ibon Begona 62)
Barcelona 0 Att: 14,223

Espanyol 1 (Tamudo 59)
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 22,700

Real Madrid 2 (Morientes 13, Raul 16)
Osasuna 1 (Aloisi 85) Att: 60,114

Valencia 1 (Mista 80)
Mallorca 1 (Luque 12) Att: 40,000

Sunday, December 2

Athletic Bilbao 2 (Urzaiz 3, 60)
Zaragoza 1 (Yordi 70) Att: 38,000

Betis 1 (Joaquin 56)
Tenerife 0 Att: 40,000

Celta Vigo 3 (Jesuli 7, Edu 50, 52)
Villarreal 1 (Guayre 56) Att: 20,000

Las Palmas 1 (Josico 73)
Sevilla 0 Att: 15,951

Malaga 1 (Miguel Angel 40)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 15,000

Valladolid 3 (Fernando 26, 37, Chema 73)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Baljic 45) Att: 12,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alaves	15	8	3	4	17	9	27
Betis	15	8	3	4	18	13	27
Dep La Coruna	15	8	2	5	28	21	26
Athletic Bilbao	15	7	5	3	21	19	26
Real Madrid	15	7	4	4	27	19	25
Celta Vigo	15	6	6	3	29	18	24
Valencia	15	5	9	1	15	11	24
Barcelona	15	6	5	4	22	13	23
Villarreal	15	6	3	6	16	15	21
Valladolid	15	6	3	6	18	25	21
Sevilla	15	5	5	5	23	18	20
Zaragoza	15	6	2	7	15	19	20
Espanyol	15	6	2	7	19	25	20
Malaga	15	5	4	6	17	20	19
Las Palmas	15	5	3	7	16	14	18
Mallorca	15	5	3	7	16	21	18
Tenerife	15	5	2	8	11	17	17
Osasuna	15	4	3	8	13	22	15
Real Sociedad	15	4	2	9	16	24	14
Rayo Vallecano	15	3	1	11	15	29	10

LEADING GOALSCORERS

8	Ismael Urzaiz (Athletic Bilbao)
7	Catanha (Celta Vigo)
7	Diego Tristan (Deportivo La Coruna)
7	Raul (Real Madrid)
6	Jesuli (Celta Vigo)
6	Moises (Sevilla)
6	Fernando Morientes (Real Madrid)
6	Javier Saviola (Barcelona)
6	Tote (Valladolid)
6	Yordi (Zaragoza)

SWITZERLAND

Nov 17: Basle 1 Aarau 0; Lausanne 2 Grasshopper 4; Servette 2 Sion 3; St Gallen 1 Lucerne 1.
Nov 18: Neuchatel Xamax 0 Young Boys 0; Zurich 2 Lugano 3.
Nov 24: Aarau 1 Neuchatel Xamax 2; Lucerne 1 Lausanne 3; Sion 0 St Gallen 1.
Nov 25: Grasshopper 0 Zurich 0; Lugano 1 Basle 2; Young Boys 0 Servette 1.
Dec 1: Aarau 2 Young Boys 0; Neuchatel Xamax 1 Lugano 3; St Gallen 2 Servette 2; Lausanne 2 Sion 1; Zurich 1 Lucerne 1.
Dec 2: Basle 4 Grasshopper 5.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Basle	21	12	4	5	51	37	40
St Gallen	21	9	8	4	38	31	35
Lugano	21	10	5	6	38	33	35
Grasshopper	21	10	4	7	46	32	34
Sion	21	10	3	8	40	28	33
Servette	21	9	6	6	35	28	33
Young Boys	21	7	7	7	34	28	28
Aarau	21	7	6	8	28	24	27
Zurich	21	6	9	6	23	27	27
Neuchatel Xamax	21	6	7	8	27	32	25
Lausanne	21	4	3	14	23	48	15
Lucerne	21	3	4	14	23	58	13

TURKEY

Nov 16: Antalyaspor 1 Besiktas 4.
Nov 17: Rizespor 1 Trabzonspor 1; Yozgatspor 2 Samsunspor 0; Galatasaray 5 Diyarbakirspor 1; Ankaragucu 1 Gaziantepspor 1.
Nov 18: Malatyaspor 3 Goztepe 1; Kocaelispor 2 Istanbulspor 0; Fenerbahce 2 Genclerbirligi 0; Denizlispor 0 Bursaspor 0.
Nov 23: Goztepe 0 Fenerbahce 5.
Nov 24: Diyarbakirspor 3 Denizlispor 0; Istanbulspor 2 Yozgatspor 0; Galatasaray 2 Samsunspor 0; Trabzonspor 2 Antalyaspor 0.
Nov 25: Besiktas 3 Malatyaspor 1; Bursaspor 1 Rizespor 0; Ankaragucu 2 Kocaelispor 0; Gaziantepspor 5 Genclerbirligi 0.
Nov 30: Galatasaray 4 Istanbulspor 1.
Dec 1: Rizespor 2 Diyarbakirspor 0; Denizlispor 4 Samsunspor 1; Kocaelispor 0 Gaziantepspor 0; Yozgatspor 0 Ankaragucu 2.
Dec 2: Genclerbirligi 0 Goztepe 1; Malatyaspor 1 Trabzonspor 0; Antalyaspor 3 Bursaspor 0; Fenerbahce 1 Besiktas 2.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	14	11	2	1	37	17	35
Fenerbahce	14	10	1	3	31	14	31
Besiktas	14	8	3	3	35	22	27
Istanbulspor	14	8	1	5	13	12	25
Bursaspor	14	7	2	5	20	22	23
Kocaelispor	14	6	4	4	21	16	22
Gaziantepspor	14	6	4	4	18	13	22
Ankaragucu	14	6	2	6	33	23	20
Goztepe	14	5	5	4	12	18	20
Trabzonspor	14	5	3	6	22	19	18
Denizlispor	14	4	5	5	25	18	17
Antalyaspor	14	4	4	6	21	31	16
Rizespor	14	3	5	6	17	20	14
Samsunspor	14	4	2	8	12	23	14
Diyarbakirspor	14	3	3	8	20	30	12
Yozgatspor	14	3	3	8	15	26	12
Malatyaspor	14	4	0	10	12	30	12
Genclerbirligi	14	2	5	7	22	32	11

UKRAINE

Nov 11: Vorskla 1 CSKA 0.
Nov 18: Tavriya 1 Dynamo 5.
Nov 22: CSKA 0 Shakhtar 0; Metalist 0 Dynamo 1.
Nov 30: Metalurh D 0 Dynamo 0.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo	13	10	3	0	31	5	33
Shakhtar	13	10	3	0	29	8	33
Karpaty	13	7	3	3	17	14	24
Metalurh D	13	6	4	3	22	11	22
Metalist	13	6	2	5	18	19	20
Metalurh Z	13	5	3	5	11	12	18
Dnipro	13	4	5	4	12	12	17
Metalurh M	13	4	3	6	14	18	15
Poligraftekhnika	13	3	5	5	11	17	14
CSKA	13	4	1	8	11	15	13
Kryvbas	13	3	4	6	16	26	13
Tavriya	13	3	2	8	13	24	11
Vorskla	13	2	3	8	7	16	9
Zakarpattya	13	2	3	8	15	30	9

YUGOSLAVIA

Nov 6: Obilic 4 OFK 2; Zvezdara 1 Mladost A 1.
Nov 7: Sutjeska 1 Vojvodina 0; Radnicki K 0 Sartid 0; Partizan 2 Rad 0; Mladost L 0 Red Star 1; Hajduk K 1 Cukaricki 0; Zemun 4 Zeleznik 2; Rudar P 1 Zeta 0.
Nov 9: Zvezdara 0 Obilic 2.
Nov 10: Mladost A 2 Zeta 1; Zeleznik 1 Rudar P 0; Cukaricki 1 Zemun 0; Red Star 1 Hajduk K 1; Rad 1 Mladost L 1; Sartid 0 Partizan 1; Vojvodina 2 Radnicki K 1; OFK 5 Sutjeska 0.
Nov 16: Partizan 1 Vojvodina 2.
Nov 17: Obilic 4 Mladost A 2; Sutjeska 1 Zvezdara 0; Radnicki K 1 OFK 0; Mladost L 1 Sartid 0; Hajduk K 2 Rad 0; Zemun 0 Red Star 2; Rudar P 0 Cukaricki 0; Zeta 3 Zeleznik 2.
Nov 23: Zvezdara 1 Radnicki K 1.
Nov 24: Mladost A 0 Zeleznik 0; Cukaricki 1 Zeta 1; Red Star 3 Rudar P 1; Rad 1 Zemun 2; Sartid 2 Hajduk K 0; Vojvodina 0 Mladost L 0; OFK 1 Partizan 1; Obilic 2 Sutjeska 1.
Nov 30: Zeta 1 Red Star 2.
Dec 1: Sutjeska 3 Mladost A 0; Partizan 1 Zvezdara 1; Mladost L 2 OFK 0; Hajduk K 1 Vojvodina 1; Zemun 0 Sartid 2; Rudar P 1 Rad 2; Zeleznik 1 Cukaricki 1; Radnicki K 3 Obilic 2.
Dec 4: Obilic 1 Partizan 3.
Dec 5: Mladost A 1 Cukaricki 1; Red Star 4 Zeleznik 0; Rad 2 Zeta 0; Sartid 2 Rudar P 2; Vojvodina 4 Zemun 1; OFK 2 Hajduk K 0; Zvezdara 2 Mladost L 1; Sutjeska 3 Radnicki K 0.

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	16	10	5	1	33	16	35
Red Star	16	9	6	1	26	12	33
Obilic	16	9	3	4	32	22	30
Sartid	16	8	4	4	19	14	28
Vojvodina	16	6	9	1	20	11	27
Rad	16	6	4	6	20	18	22
Zvezdara	16	5	6	5	20	17	21
Hajduk K	16	5	5	6	16	18	20
Sutjeska	16	6	2	8	15	19	20
OFK	16	5	4	7	22	18	19
Mladost L	16	5	4	7	16	18	19
Zemun	16	5	4	7	16	20	19
Zeleznik	16	5	4	7	18	23	19
Zeta	16	5	3	8	16	28	18
Rudar P	16	4	5	7	14	16	17
Cukaricki	16	3	6	7	16	20	15
Radnicki K	16	3	5	8	13	27	14
Mladost A	16	2	7	7	15	30	13

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP 2002

Preliminary rnd

Oct 31: America (Mex) 2 Atletico Morelia (Mex) 0; Caracas (Ven) 3 Trujillanos (Ven) 0.
Nov 20: Atletico Morelia 3 Trujillanos 0.
Nov 22: America 7 Trujillanos 1.
Nov 27: Atletico Morelia 3 Caracas 0.
Nov 29: America 1 Caracas 0.

LIBERTADORES: PRELIM RND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	6	4	1	1	15	5	13
At Morelia	6	3	0	3	9	8	9
Caracas	6	2	1	3	7	7	7
Trujillanos	6	2	0	4	4	15	6

Top two qualify for 1st rnd

ARGENTINA

Friday, November 9

Velez Sarsfield 1 (F Dominguez 20)
Huracan 0

Saturday, November 10

Gimnasia LP 0
Chacarita Juniors 2 (Carrario 30, Mas 90)

Independiente 2 (Vuoso 13, Pernia 34)
Talleres Cordoba 1 (Roth 82)

San Lorenzo 0
Lanus 2 (Hoyos 23, Klimowicz 73)

Sunday, November 11

Banfield 0
Union Santa Fe 1 (Tilger pen 19)

Belgrano Cordoba 2 (Goux 26, Arce 77)
Argentinos Juniors 2 (De Muner 45, Yaque 72)

Boca Juniors 4 (Gaitan 8, Riquelme 70, 83, Burdisso 72)
Estudiantes 2 (Farias 27, 58)

Colon Santa Fe 1 (Graf 86)
River Plate 0

Newell's Old Boys 1 (Pavlovich 51)
Rosario Central 1 (Encina 5)

Nueva Chicago 4 (Gomez pen 27, 29, Jesus 60, Serrano 86)
Racing Club 4 (Herbella og 11, Chatruc 65, Maceratesi 73, Torres 81)

Friday, November 16

Argentinos Juniors 0
San Lorenzo 0

Union Santa Fe 0
Velez Sarsfield 1 (F Dominguez 57)

Sunday, November 18

Estudiantes 0
Banfield 0

Huracan 2 (Soto 1, Adippe 3)
Independiente 1 (Forlan pen 88)

Lanus 0
Colon Santa Fe 0

Nueva Chicago 1 (Kmet 33)
Boca Juniors 2 (Martinez 13, Riquelme 77)

Racing Club 1 (Estevez pen 45)
Chacarita Juniors 0

River Plate 4 (Cardetti 13, pen 24, Ortega 18, Coudet 83)
Gimnasia LP 0

Rosario Central 1 (D Quinteros 90)
Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Meta 65)

Talleres Cordoba 1 (Manfredi 85)
Newell's Old Boys 2 (Saldana 30, Martinez 88)

Friday, November 23

Independiente 2 (Montenegro 6, Forlan 90)
Union Santa Fe 2 (Frutos 32, Ruiz 53)

Saturday, November 24

Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Brusco 78)
Talleres Cordoba 0

Velez Sarsfield 2 (Nanni 25, Fuentes 65)
Estudiantes 2 (Farias 38, Fuentes og 44)

Sunday, November 25

Banfield 2 (Lujambio 1, Del Rio 84)
Nueva Chicago 0

Chacarita Juniors 1 (Moreno pen 55)
River Plate 4 (Yepes 1, Cardetti 27, D'Alessandro 39, 57)

Colon Santa Fe 2 (Graf 9, Pereyra 27)
Argentinos Juniors 3 (Yaque 24, Perez Castro 72, Insua 82)

Gimnasia LP 2 (Messera 29, Enria 64)
Lanus 1 (Coyette 68)

Newell's Old Boys 5 (Pavlovich pen 9, 18, 41, Rosales 25, Marino 90)
Huracan 2 (Bujan 39, Villa 84)

San Lorenzo 1 (Cornejo 55)
Rosario Central 0

Friday, November 30

Estudiantes 1 (Maggiolo 90)
Independiente 0

Saturday, December 1

Huracan 0
Belgrano Cordoba 0

Lanus 0
Chacarita Juniors 2 (Moreno 10, Quinteros 84)

Talleres Cordoba 1 (Garay 64)
San Lorenzo 3 (Rivarola pen 13, Rodriguez pen 62, Filomeno 90)

Sunday, December 2

Argentinos Juniors 1 (Mantilla 45)
Gimnasia LP 1 (Sava 43)

Boca Juniors 0
Banfield 1 (Luchetti pen 83)

Nueva Chicago 1 (Jesus 29)
Velez Sarsfield 2 (F Dominguez 77, Husain 84)

Racing Club 1 (Bedoya 86)
River Plate 1 (Cambiasso 45)

Rosario Central 0
Colon Santa Fe 1 (Romagnoli 52)

Union Santa Fe 0
Newell's Old Boys 0

ARGENTINA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Racing Club	16	11	4	1	31	16	37
River Plate	16	9	5	2	38	14	32
Boca Juniors	16	8	4	4	32	20	28
San Lorenzo	16	7	6	3	24	18	27
Chacarita Jnrs	16	6	7	3	27	21	25
Colon Santa Fe	16	6	7	3	20	16	25
Belgrano Cordoba	16	6	7	3	15	13	25
Gimnasia LP	16	7	4	5	25	27	25
Independiente	16	6	5	5	22	20	23
Newell's OB	16	6	4	6	24	21	22
Lanus	16	6	4	6	20	22	22
Argentinos Jnrs	16	6	4	6	20	23	22
Estudiantes	16	5	5	6	21	25	20
Velez Sarsfield	16	5	4	7	23	26	19
Rosario Central	16	5	3	8	14	17	18
Nueva Chicago	16	5	3	8	21	29	18
Union Santa Fe	16	3	7	6	21	22	16
Banfield	16	3	4	9	12	23	13
Huracan	16	2	4	10	19	36	10
Talleres Cordoba	16	2	1	13	13	33	7

LEADING GOALSCORERS

13	Martin Cardetti (River Plate)
10	Diego Forlan (Independiente)
9	Ernesto Farias (Estudiantes)
9	Facundo Sava (Gimnasia LP)
8	Esteban Cambiasso (River Plate)
8	Federico Dominguez (Velez Sarsfield)
8	Diego Klimowicz (Lanus)
8	Carlos Moreno (Chacarita Juniors)
8	Maximiliano Rodriguez (Newell's Old Boys)

BOLIVIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Semi-final group

Nov 18: Bolivar 2 Oriente 3; Jorge Wilstermann 5 Real Potosi 3.
Nov 21: Oriente 0 Jorge Wilstermann 0; Real Potosi 2 Bolivar 2.
Nov 25: Bolivar 0 Jorge Wilstermann 0; Oriente 5 Real Potosi 1.
Dec 2: Real Potosi 5 Oriente 2; Jorge Wilstermann 1 Bolivar 3.

BOLIVIA – CLOSING SEMI-FINAL GP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oriente	4	2	1	1	10	8	7
Bolivar	4	1	2	1	7	6	5
J Wilstermann	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Real Potosi	4	1	1	2	11	14	4

BRAZIL

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

League stage

Nov 10: Fluminense 0 Internacional 1; Sao Paulo 3 Botafogo (Rio) 1; Juventude 2 Atletico Paranaense 0; Sport Recife 1 Gama 2.
Nov 11: Flamengo 0 Portuguesa 2; Corinthians 0 Sao Caetano 1; Coritiba 2 Vitoria 0; Gremio 3 Palmeiras 0; Bahia 3 Parana 0; Guarani 0 America MG 2; Botafogo SP 1 Santa Cruz 0; Goias 2 Ponte Preta 1; Atletico Mineiro 2 Vasco da Gama 1; Santos 4 Cruzeiro 2.
Nov 13: Atletico Paranaense 2 Sport Recife 1.
Nov 15: Vasco da Gama 2 Gremio 0; Portuguesa 1 Cruzeiro 3; Botafogo (Rio) 2 Corinthians 4; Sao Paulo 3 Flamengo 1; Atletico Mineiro 2 Palmeiras 1; Parana 0 Fluminense 1; Internacional 3 Santos 0; Santa Cruz 2 America MG 1; Bahia 2 Gama 1; Ponte Preta 1 Juventude 0; Botafogo SP 2 Vitoria 0; Goias 2 Coritiba 1; Sao Caetano 2 Guarani 0.
Nov 18: Fluminense 0 Portuguesa 0; Flamengo 1 Internacional 0; Palmeiras 1 Vasco da Gama 3; Corinthians 2 Atletico Mineiro 2; Cruzeiro 1 Sao Paulo 4; America MG 1 Bahia 2; Coritiba 1 Santa Cruz 0; Gremio 1 Sao Caetano 2; Sport Recife 1 Botafogo SP 2; Vitoria 1 Goias 0; Guarani 1 Parana 0; Gama 4 Atletico Paranaense 1; Santos 1 Ponte Preta 2; Juventude 1 Botafogo (Rio) 3.
Nov 24: Fluminense 2 Santos 1; Portuguesa 2 Botafogo (Rio) 1; Bahia 1 Coritiba 1.
Nov 25: Internacional 0 Corinthians 2; Sao Caetano 2 Flamengo 0; Vasco da Gama 7 Sao Paulo 1; Palmeiras 2 Cruzeiro 1; Atletico Mineiro 2 Gremio 0; Atletico Paranaense 2 Guarani 2; Santa Cruz 1 Vitoria 1; Ponte Preta 2 Sport Recife 1; Botafogo SP 0 Parana 2; Goias 3 America 0; Juventude 2 Gama 1.
Dec 1: Botafogo (Rio) 2 Sao Caetano 4.
Dec 2: Flamengo 2 Palmeiras 0; Corinthians 1 Fluminense 2; Sao Paulo 3 Atletico Mineiro 0; Cruzeiro 4 Internacional 2; America MG 1 Juventude 1; Coritiba 1 Ponte Preta 2; Parana 3 Goias 1; Gremio 3 Portuguesa 1; Sport Recife 0 Bahia 1; Vitoria 2 Atletico Paranaense 4; Guarani 1 Santa Cruz 2; Gama 5 Botafogo SP 0; Santos 2 Vasco da Gama 2.

BRAZIL: LEAGUE STAGE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sao Caetano	27	18	5	4	48	25	59
At Paranaense	27	15	6	6	58	40	51
Fluminense	27	14	9	4	44	29	51
At Mineiro	27	15	4	8	50	34	49
Gremio	27	14	5	8	39	29	47
Ponte Preta	27	13	8	6	53	48	47
Sao Paulo	27	13	7	7	48	34	46
Bahia	27	13	6	8	43	38	45
Internacional	27	12	4	11	38	40	40
Goias	27	12	3	12	38	32	39
Vasco da Gama	27	10	9	8	57	36	39
Palmeiras	27	12	2	13	40	47	38
Portuguesa	27	11	4	12	31	33	37
Parana	27	11	3	13	35	37	36
Santos	27	9	9	9	37	32	36
Vitoria	27	9	9	9	33	37	36
Coritiba	27	9	8	10	31	32	35
Corinthians	27	9	7	11	46	45	34
Guarani	27	9	6	12	29	45	33
Gama	27	8	9	10	40	34	33
Cruzeiro	27	9	5	13	36	43	32
Juventude	27	6	12	9	29	37	30
Botafogo (Rio)	27	8	5	14	41	51	29
Flamengo	27	8	5	14	25	39	29
Santa Cruz	27	7	6	14	31	50	27
America MG	27	6	7	14	32	46	25
Botafogo SP	27	6	7	14	23	41	25
Sport Recife	27	5	4	18	24	46	19

Top eight qualify for knockout stages; bottom four relegated

CHILE

Nov 17: U Catolica 3 Coquimbo Unido 0; Rangers 2 Cobreloa 2; Puerto Montt 2 Union Espanola 3; U de Chile 3 Palestino 1.
Nov 18: Santiago Wanderers 5 Dep Concepcion 1; Huachipato 2 San Felipe 1; O'Higgins 4 Colo Colo 2; Audax Italiano 1 Santiago Morning 1.
Nov 24: Dep Concepcion 0 U Catolica 4; Colo Colo 2 Audax Italiano 1; San Felipe 2 Rangers 2; Coquimbo Unido 2 Puerto Montt 2; Palestino 2 O'Higgins 2.
Nov 25: Cobreloa 0 U de Chile 1; Santiago Morning 1 Santiago Wanderers 5; Union Espanola 2 Huachipato 4.
Dec 1: U Catolica 6 Santiago Morning 3; Palestino 1 Cobreloa 2; Puerto Montt 2 Dep Concepcion 0; Rangers 1 Union Espanola 1.
Dec 2: U de Chile 2 San Felipe 3; Huachipato 2 Coquimbo Unido 2; O'Higgins 1 Audax Italiano 0; Santiago Wanderers 1 Colo Colo 0.

CHILE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sant Wanderers	29	19	6	4	61	30	63
U Catolica	29	18	6	5	59	25	60
U de Chile	29	17	6	6	52	31	57
Colo Colo	29	15	8	6	59	36	53
Huachipato	29	12	9	8	55	39	45
Cobreloa	29	12	9	8	37	28	45
Palestino	29	13	6	10	42	42	45
San Felipe	29	10	10	9	44	37	40
Coquimbo Unido	29	9	7	13	28	38	34
Union Espanola	29	9	7	13	44	62	34
Audax Italiano	29	10	2	17	25	36	32
Dep Concepcion	29	8	7	14	32	48	31
Rangers	29	6	11	12	37	45	29
Sant Morning	29	6	7	16	43	66	25
O'Higgins	29	7	4	18	39	62	25
Puerto Montt	29	4	9	16	30	62	21

COLOMBIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Nov 11: At Nacional 2 Indep Medellin 0; Dep Pasto 1 At Huila 0; Bucaramanga 0 Real Cartagena 1; Indep Santa Fe 2 Dep Cali 0; Once Caldas 2 Pereira 0; America 4 Millonarios 1; At Junior 3 Envigado 3; Tolima 2 Tulua 0.

COLOMBIA: CLOSING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Once Caldas	22	12	7	3	36	16	43
Millonarios	22	11	4	7	37	31	37
At Nacional	22	10	7	5	30	18	37
Dep Cali	22	10	6	6	34	25	36
America	22	10	5	7	31	23	35
Dep Pasto	22	9	8	5	21	27	35
Envigado	22	9	6	7	37	36	33
Tolima	22	8	8	6	28	24	32
Indep Santa Fe	22	9	2	11	29	29	29
Indep Medellin	22	8	5	9	24	23	29
Pereira	22	7	5	10	19	31	26
At Junior	22	6	7	9	27	29	25
Tulua	22	5	8	9	23	28	23
Real Cartagena	22	4	9	9	20	31	21
At Huila	22	5	5	12	20	36	20
Bucaramanga	22	4	6	12	17	26	18

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

Nov 18: Millonarios 0 Indep Santa Fe 0; America 2 Once Caldas 2; Tolima 1 Dep Cali 0; Tulua 1 Indep Medellin 0.
Nov 25: Once Caldas 1 Millonarios 0; Indep Santa Fe 1 America 1; Dep Cali 1 Tulua 0; Indep Medellin 2 Tolima 1.
Dec 2: Millonarios 0 America 1; Once Caldas 0 Indep Santa Fe 2; Tulua 2 Tolima 0; Dep Cali 2 Indep Medellin 2.
Dec 5: Indep Santa Fe 2 Once Caldas 2; America 2 Millonarios 0; Tolima 1 Tulua 1; Indep Medellin 0 Dep Cali 0.

COLOMBIA: PLAY-OFFS – GP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	4	2	2	0	6	3	8
Indep Santa Fe	4	1	3	0	5	3	6
Once Caldas	4	1	2	1	5	6	5
Millonarios	4	0	1	3	0	4	1

COLOMBIA: PLAY-OFFS – GP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tulua	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
indep Medellin	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Dep Cali	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
Tolima	4	1	1	2	3	5	4

Competing clubs finished in top eight of combined opening and closing table

ECUADOR

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

Nov 18: Espoli 2 Olmedo 2; El Nacional 6 Emelec 0; Barcelona 2 Dep Quito 0.
Nov 21: Dep Quito 2 El Nacional 2; Emelec 0 Espoli 0; Olmedo 2 Barcelona 0.
Nov 23: Barcelona 0 Emelec 1; El Nacional 2 Espoli 1; Dep Quito 2 Olmedo 2.
Nov 28: Barcelona 0 El Nacional 0; Espoli 0 Dep Quito 2; Olmedo 1 Emelec 0.
Dec 2: El Nacional 0 Olmedo 0; Espoli 1 Barcelona 1; Emelec 4 Dep Quito 0.

ECUADOR – CHAMP'SHIP PLAY-OFFS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
El Nacional	5	2	3	0	10	3	12	[3]
Olmedo	5	2	3	0	7	4	10	[1]
Emelec	5	2	1	2	5	7	10	[3]
Barcelona	5	1	2	2	3	4	7	[2]
Espoli	5	0	3	2	4	7	5	[2]
Dep Quito	5	1	2	2	6	10	5	[0]

Bonus points from opening and closing championships in brackets

PARAGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP – FINAL

2nd leg
Cerro Porteno 1 Guarani 0
Agg 4-4. Cerro Porteno 7-6 on pens

PERU

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Nov 10: Coopsol Trujillo 2 Juan Aurich 2.
Nov 11: Melgar 0 Estudiantes 1; Alianza Lima 1 Universitario 1; Union Minas 1 Alianza Atletico 1; Cienciano 2 Dep Wanka 1; Sporting Cristal 4 Sport Boys 2.
Nov 17: Dep Wanka 1 Sporting Cristal 0.
Nov 18: Universitario 1 Sport Boys 1; Cienciano 4 Coopsol Trujillo 2; Estudiantes 2 Union Minas 1; Melgar 4 Alianza Lima 4; Juan Aurich 2 Alianza Atletico 3.
Nov 24: Sporting Cristal 4 Melgar 3; Sport Boys 2 Estudiantes 1.
Nov 25: Union Minas 0 Cienciano 1; Alianza Atletico 1 Dep Wanka 0; Alianza Lima 2 Coopsol Trujillo 2; Juan Aurich 1 Universitario 1.
Dec 1: Universitario 4 Cienciano 1; Sporting Cristal 1 Juan Aurich 0.
Dec 2: Coopsol Trujillo 3 Estudiantes 4; Alianza Atletico 2 Alianza Lima 1; Dep Wanka 2 Sport Boys 1; Melgar 1 Union Minas 2.

PERU – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Estudiantes	20	13	3	4	33	23	42
Cienciano	20	13	2	5	37	29	41
Sporting Cristal	20	12	2	6	33	21	38
Universitario	20	8	7	5	28	19	31
Sport Boys	20	9	4	7	27	27	31
Alianza Atletico	20	9	3	8	21	23	30
Dep Wanka	20	7	4	9	19	23	25
Melgar	20	7	2	11	28	30	23
Coopsol Trujillo	20	5	7	8	31	33	22
Alianza Lima	20	4	8	8	23	25	20
Union Minas	20	5	4	11	22	32	19
Juan Aurich	20	3	4	13	19	36	13

URUGUAY

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF

1st leg - Dec 2
Nacional 2 (Abreu 32, Vanzini 36)
Danubio 2 (Cardozo og 11, Da Silva 15)
HT: 2-2

2nd leg - Dec 5
Danubio 1 (Olivera 3)
Nacional 2 (Abreu 17, Varela 61)
HT: 1-1

Nacional win championship

VENEZUELA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 28: Ital-Chacao 1 Nacional 1; Monagas 1 Mineros Guayana 1; Dep Tachira 3 Estudiantes 3; Portuguesa 2 Galicia 3; Caracas 1 Trujillanos 1.
Nov 11: Nacional 1 Monagas 2; Trujillanos 2 Ital-Chacao 0; Galicia 0 Caracas 2; Estudiantes 1 Portuguesa 0; Mineros Guayana 2 Dep Tachira 0.
Nov 18: Monagas 0 Dep Tachira 3; Portuguesa 1 Mineros Guayana 1; Caracas 0 Estudiantes 0; Ital-Chacao 2 Galicia 0.
Nov 21: Galicia 1 Nacional 1; Estudiantes 5 Ital-Chacao 1; Mineros Guayana 1 Caracas 0; Dep Tachira 2 Portuguesa 0.
Nov 24: Caracas 4 Dep Tachira 1.
Nov 25: Monagas 5 Portuguesa 0; Ital-Chacao 0 Mineros Guayana 1; Nacional 1 Estudiantes 3; Trujillanos 2 Galicia 2.
Nov 28: Nacional 2 Trujillanos 0.
Dec 2: Galicia 0 Monagas 1; Estudiantes 3 Trujillanos 2; Mineros Guayana 0 Nacional 2; Dep Tachira 1 Ital-Chacao 0; Portuguesa 1 Caracas 0.
Dec 5: Trujillanos 2 Monagas 2.

VENEZUELA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monagas	16	8	4	4	22	15	28
Estudiantes	16	7	6	3	29	18	27
Dep Tachira	16	7	6	3	26	15	27
Nacional	16	6	6	4	24	17	24
Mineros Guayana	16	6	4	6	22	27	22
Caracas	16	5	6	5	29	19	21
Trujillanos	16	4	9	3	26	24	21
Ital-Chacao	16	5	3	8	20	22	18
Portuguesa	16	4	4	8	17	36	16
Galicia	16	3	2	11	16	38	11

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

GOLD CUP 2002

SCHEDULE

In the United States

Group A

Jan 19 - El Salvador v Mexico (Pasadena)
Jan 21 - Mexico v Guatemala (Pasadena)
Jan 23 - Guatemala v El Salvador (Pasadena)

Group B

Jan 19 - United States v South Korea (Pasadena)
Jan 21 - Cuba v United States (Pasadena)
Jan 23 - South Korea v Cuba (Pasadena)

Group C

Jan 18 - Martinique v Costa Rica (Miami)
Jan 20 - Costa Rica v Trinidad & Tobago (Miami)
Jan 22 - Trinidad & Tobago v Martinique (Miami)

Group D

Jan 18 - Haiti v Canada (Miami)
Jan 20 - Ecuador v Haiti (Miami)
Jan 22 - Canada v Ecuador (Miami)

Quarter-finals

Jan 26 - (1) Gp C 1st v Gp D 2nd (Miami)
Jan 26 - (2) Gp D 1st v Gp C 2nd (Miami)
Jan 27 - (3) Gp A 1st v Gp B 2nd (Pasadena)
Jan 27 - (4) Gp B 1st v Gp A 2nd (Pasadena)

Semi-finals

Jan 30 - Winners (1) v Winners (3) (Pasadena)
Jan 30 - Winners (2) v Winners (4) (Pasadena)

Third-place play-off

Feb 2 - *In Pasadena*

Final

Feb 2 - *In Pasadena*

MEXICO

WINTER LEAGUE

Nov 10: La Piedad 2 Toluca 0; Puebla 1 Atletico Morelia 0; Irapuato 1 Guadalajara 0; Atlas 1 Atletico Celaya 5.
Nov 13: Pumas UNAM 1 Leon 1; Pachuca 2 Santos 1.
Nov 14: America 3 Atlante 2; Cruz Azul 0 Necaxa 0; Tigres 3 Tecos UAG 1.
Nov 17: Atletico Morelia 2 America 0; Toluca 2 Cruz Azul 1; Monterrey 1 La Piedad 1; Tecos UAG 1 Irapuato 1; Atlante 2 Pachuca 0; Necaxa 2 Pumas UNAM 1.
Nov 18: Puebla 2 Leon 2; Guadalajara 0 Atlas 3; Santos 1 Tigres 2.
Nov 25: Atlas 0 Tecos UAG 1; Leon 2 Necaxa 1; America 1 Puebla 0; Tigres 2 Atlante 0; Pumas UNAM 1 Toluca 1; Cruz Azul 4 Monterrey 2; Irapuato 1 Santos 1; Pachuca 1 Atletico Morelia 0; La Piedad 2 Atletico Celaya 1.

RECENT TRANSFERS

	POS	FROM	TO
Arsim ABAZI	D	Vardar Skopje	Malatyaspor
Sven ANDERSSON	G	Helsingborgs	West Ham (loan)
Filip APELSTAN	D	Sogndal	Norrkoping
Karim BAGHERI	M	Free agent	Al Sadd (Qatar)
Elvir BALJIC	M	Real Madrid	Rayo Vallecano (loan)
Chris BART-WILLIAMS	M	Nottingham Forest	Charlton (loan)
Dave BEASANT	G	Portsmouth	Tottenham (loan)
Marcus BENT	F	Blackburn	Ipswich
Vasiliy BEREZUTSKI	D	Torpedo-ZIL	CSKA Moscow
Morten BERRE	F	Viking	St Pauli
Bard BORGERSEN	D	Odd Grenland	AaB Aalborg
Yuri BUDYLIN	F	Neftochimik Nizh.	Torpedo Moscow
Kleber CHALA	F	El Nacional	Southampton
Kim CHRISTENSEN	F	Lyngby	Hamburg
CLAYTON	D	Bastia	Esperance
Stephane COLLET	M	Strasbourg	Real Sociedad (loan)
Vyacheslav DAYEV	D	Torpedo Moscow	CSKA Moscow
Brian DEANE	F	Middlesbrough	Leicester
Agustin DELGADO	F	Necaxa	Southampton
Eric DELOUMEAUX	D	Le Havre	Motherwell
Andrew DICKSON	M	Glentoran	Crusaders
Gerard DOHERTY	M	Derby	Total Network Solutions
Chokri EL OUAER	G	Esperance	Genoa
Peter ERIKSSON	M	Hacken	IFK Gothenburg
FATIH Akyel	D	Mallorca	Fenerbahce
Tony FOLAN	M	Brentford	Bohemians
Robbie FOWLER	F	Liverpool	Leeds
Marco FRANCESCHETTI	D/M	Free agent	Fiorentina
Otto FREDRIKSON	G	Teruarit Oulu	Borussia M'gladbach
Dmitri GONCHAROV	G	Fakel Voronezh	Moscow Spartak
Rolan GUSEV	M	Dinamo Moscow	CSKA Moscow
Helge HAUGEN	M	Asane	Brann Bergen
Jonas HENRIKSSON	F	Hacken	IFK Gothenburg
Eduardo HURTADO	F	Free agent	Hibernian
JOAO BATISTA	M	Gaziantepspor	Galatasaray
Bent Inge JOHNSEN	D	Rosenborg	Odd Grenland
Jonas JONSSON	M	Bryne	Brann Bergen
JORGE COSTA	D	FC Porto	Charlton (loan)
Mads JUNCKER	F	Lyngby	Brondby
Mirdzhalol KASSYMOV	M	Kryliya Sovetov	Al Shabab (UAE)
Diego KLIMOWICZ	F	Lanus	Wolfsburg
Peter KOPTEFF	M	HJK Helsinki	Viking
Thomas LAGERLOF	D	AIK Stockholm	Lyn Oslo
Tommy Svindal LARSEN	M	Stabaek	Nurnberg
Ulrich LE PEN	M	Lorient	Ipswich
Marek LEMSALU	D	Start	Bryne
Jonas LUNDEN	F	IFK Gothenburg	Elfsborg
Steven LUSTU	D	AB	Lyn Oslo
Hakan MILD	M	IFK Gothenburg	Wimbledon
Ivan MILOSEVIC	D	Kolubara	Karpaty Lviv
Mbo MPENZA	F	Galatasaray	Mouscron
Per Espen MUSAEUS	F	Valerenga	Brann Bergen
Marco NEGRI	F	Free agent	Bologna
Lars NILSSON	F	Brage	Elfsborg
Derek NIVEN	M	Raith	Bolton
Brett ORMEROD	F	Blackpool	Southampton
Tom PEETERS	M	Sunderland	Royal Antwerp (loan)
Claudio REYNA	M	Rangers	Sunderland
Paulo RINK	F	Bayer Leverkusen	Nurnberg
Alan ROGERS	M	Nottingham Forest	Leicester
Deividas SEMBERAS	D	Dinamo Moscow	CSKA Moscow
Dusan SIMIC	M	OFK Belgrade	Karpaty Lviv
Narvik SIRKHAEV	M	Anzhi Makhachkala	Lokomotiv Moscow
Gary SLINEY	M	Newry Town	Ards
Yon SOLOY	M	Free agent	Motherwell
Rigobert SONG	D	West Ham	Koln (loan)
Davor SUKER	F	Free agent	1860 Munich
Jimmy TAMANDI	D	Malmo	AIK Stockholm
TONI	D	Farense	Benfica
Jani VIANDER	G	HJK Helsinki	Bolton (loan)
Taribo WEST	D	Milan	Kaiserslautern
Raphael WICKY	D	Atletico Madrid	Hamburg (loan)
Mike WILLIAMSON	D	Torquay	Southampton
Harry YLONEN	D	Brann Bergen	FC Haka
Andreas YNGVESSON	F	Sundsvall	Malmo
Marc ZELLWEGER	D	St Gallen	Koln

GROUP 1 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruz Azul	18	8	6	4	33	24	30
Guadalajara	18	6	8	4	20	20	26
Atlas	18	6	3	9	25	29	21
Monterrey	18	4	8	6	23	31	20
At Celaya	18	5	4	9	27	33	19

GROUP 2 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toluca	18	8	8	2	33	22	32
Santos	18	7	3	8	36	34	24
At Morelia	18	5	5	8	24	30	20
Irapuato	18	4	7	7	27	26	19
La Piedad	18	4	7	7	28	40	19

GROUP 3 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Necaxa	18	6	9	3	21	20	27
Atlante	18	6	8	4	24	22	26
America	18	6	6	6	21	21	24
Tecos UAG	18	4	7	7	21	23	19
Leon	18	4	7	7	25	31	19

GROUP 4 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tigres	18	11	3	4	26	12	36
Pachuca	18	9	5	4	29	24	32
Puebla	18	5	8	5	22	22	23
Pumas UNAM	18	3	8	7	21	22	17

Top two from each group qualified for quarter-finals

TOP GOALSCORERS

12 Martin Rodriguez (Irapuato)
11 Alex Fernandez (Atletico Morelia)
10 Jose Manuel Abundis (Atlante)
9 Jared Borgetti (Santos)
9 Jose Luis Calderon (Atlas)
9 Walter Silviani (Pachuca)
9 Ivan Zamorano (America)

Quarter-finals

1st legs
Nov 28: Santos 1 Tigres 1; Guadalajara 1 Toluca 1.
Nov 30: Atlante 1 Pachuca 2; Necaxa 2 Cruz Azul 0.

2nd legs
Dec 1: Toluca 2 Guadalajara 0 *Toluca 3-1 on agg*; Tigres 3 Santos 0 *Tigres 4-1 on agg.*
Dec 2: Cruz Azul 4 Necaxa 0 *Cruz Azul 4-2 on agg*; Pachuca 0 Atlante 1 *Agg 2-2. Pachuca qualified on better League stage record.*

Semi-finals

1st legs
Dec 5: Cruz Azul 1 Tigres 0; Pachuca 1 Toluca 1.

AFRICA

2002 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

FINALS SCHEDULE

In Mali

Group A

Jan 19 - Mali v Liberia (Bamako)
Jan 21 - Algeria v Nigeria (Bamako)
Jan 24 - Mali v Nigeria (Bamako)
Jan 25 - Algeria v Liberia (Bamako)
Jan 28 - Mali v Algeria (Bamako)
Jan 28 - Liberia v Nigeria (Mopti)

Group B

Jan 20 - Burkina Faso v South Africa (Segou)
Jan 21 - Ghana v Morocco (Segou)
Jan 24 - Ghana v South Africa (Segou)
Jan 26 - Burkina Faso v Morocco (Segou)
Jan 30 - Morocco v South Africa (Segou)
Jan 30 - Burkina Faso v Ghana (Mopti)

Group C

Jan 20 - Cameroon v DR Congo (Sikasso)
Jan 21 - Ivory Coast v Togo (Sikasso)
Jan 25 - Cameroon v Ivory Coast (Sikasso)
Jan 26 - DR Congo v Togo (Sikasso)
Jan 29 - Cameroon v Togo (Sikasso)
Jan 29 - DR Congo v Ivory Coast (Kayes)

Group D

Jan 20 - Egypt v Senegal (Bamako)
Jan 21 - Tunisia v Zambia (Bamako)
Jan 25 - Egypt v Tunisia (Bamako)
Jan 26 - Senegal v Zambia (Bamako)
Jan 31 - Egypt v Zambia (Bamako)
Jan 31 - Senegal v Tunisia (Kayes)

Quarter-finals

Feb 3 - (1) Winners A v runners-up B (Bamako)
Feb 3 - (2) Winners B v runners-up A (Kayes)
Feb 4 - (3) Winners C v runners-up D (Sikasso)
Feb 4 - (4) Winners D v runners-up C (Bamako)

Semi-finals

Feb 7 - Winners (1) v Winners (4) (Bamako)
Feb 7 - Winners (2) v Winners (3) (Bamako)

Third-place play-off

Feb 9 - *In Mopti*

Final

Feb 10 - *In Bamako*

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Semi-finals

2nd legs
Nov 17: Esperance (Tun) 1 Al Ahly (Egy) 1
Agg 1-1. Al Ahly on away goals.
Nov 18: Petro Atletico (Ang) 2 Mamelodi Sundowns (SAf) 0
Agg 2-2. Sundowns 5-3 on pens.

CUP-WINNERS CUP

FINAL, 1st leg

Nov 17 - Luanda
Inter Luanda (Ang) 1 (Esengo 27)
Kaizer Chiefs (SAf) 1 (Jukelile 20)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Abdulkadir (Tan)
Inter: Tokala - Zequinhas, Kikas, Miloy (Potche 70), Dadi, Musumari, Esengo, Neisinho (Mimoso 87), Mabika (Andre 77), Miranda, Gito.
Chiefs: Baloyi - Nzama, Mabedi, Goldstone, Mabotsa, Fredericks, Pule, Zwane, Mthembu, Jukelile (Sithole 79), Mooki (Mbuthu 58). *Sent off: Mabotsa 65min.*

FINAL, 2nd leg

Dec 1 - Johannesburg
Kaizer Chiefs 1 (Mabedi pen 89)
Inter Luanda 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Al-Ghandour (Egy)
Chiefs 2-1 on agg
Chiefs: Baloyi - Nzama, Mabedi, Goldstone (Khumalo 88), Kubheka, Mthembu, Mooki, Pule, Zwane, Fredericks, Sithole (Jukelile 60).
Inter: Tokala - Zequinhas, Kikas, Gito, Miranda, Miloy (Ngoulou 72), Dady (Andre 84), Musumari (Potche 58), Esengo, Neisinho, Mabika.

CAF CUP

FINAL, 1st leg

Nov 10 - Sousse
Etoile Sahel (Tun) 2 (Keita 14, 74)
JS Kabylie (Alg) 1 (Boubrit 42)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Hailemalik (Eth)
Etoile: Baba - Bergui, Sellami, Mkademi, Dini, Mkacher, Ghodhbane, Kone, Idoudi (Bacha), Keita, Ghazouani (Meliti).
JS Kabylie: Gaouaoui - Raho, Benhamlat, Drioueche, Zafour, Meftah, Belkaid, Boubrit, Bendahmane (Abaci), Bezzaz (Berguigua), Dob.

FINAL, 2nd leg

Nov 23 - Algiers
JS Kabylie 1 (Zafour 28)
Etoile Sahel 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Kanoute (Mli)
Agg 2-2. JS Kabylie on away goals
JS Kabylie: Gaouaoui (Bougherara 70) - Raho, Benhamlat, Drioueche, Zafour, Nazef, Belkaid, Bendahmane, Abaci, Berguigua, Dob.
Etoile: Baba - Ghazouani, Mkademi, Sellami, Mkacher, Zouaghi, Bergui (Dini 66), Kone, Ghodhbane, Keita, Jaziri. *Sent off: Abdelkader Keita 84min.*

IVORY COAST

IVORY COAST – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ASEC Abidjan	22	17	4	1	54	13	55
Satellite	22	13	6	3	34	18	45
Africa Sports	22	12	5	5	44	19	41
Daoukro	22	10	5	7	31	27	35
Sabe	22	9	7	6	28	24	34
Alliance	22	9	6	7	30	33	33
Stade Abidjan	22	9	5	8	36	33	32
FC Man	22	6	6	10	22	26	24
Korhogo	22	4	8	10	22	33	20
Bouafle	22	5	5	12	17	38	20
Toumodi	22	2	6	14	22	44	12
Daloa	22	3	3	16	19	51	12

Relegated: Korhogo (after play-off), Toumodi, Daloa
Promoted: Stella Club, Rio Sports, Jeunesse Club (after play-off)

ASIA

GULF CUP 2002

SCHEDULE

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Jan 16 - Saudi Arabia v Kuwait
Jan 17 - Qatar v Bahrain
Jan 17 - United Arab Emirates v Oman
Jan 19 - Kuwait v Oman
Jan 20 - Saudi Arabia v Bahrain
Jan 20 - United Arab Emirates v Qatar
Jan 22 - Kuwait v Bahrain
Jan 23 - Oman v Qatar
Jan 23 - Saudi Arabia v United Arab Emirates
Jan 25 - Kuwait v Qatar
Jan 26 - Saudi Arabia v Oman
Jan 26 - United Arab Emirates v Bahrain
Jan 28 - Bahrain v Oman
Jan 28 - United Arab Emirates v Kuwait
Jan 29 - Saudi Arabia v Qatar
Ties to be played on a round-robin basis

JAPAN

SECOND STAGE

Nov 3: Avispa Fukuoka 2 Jubilo Iwata 3 (aet); Yokohama F Marinos 1 Kashima Antlers 2 (aet); Shimizu S-Pulse 1 JEF United Ichihara 2; Gamba Osaka 1 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2; Vissel Kobe 2 Tokyo Verdy 1969 2 (aet); FC Tokyo 5 Cerezo Osaka 2; Consadole Sapporo 1 Urawa Reds 1 (aet); Kashiwa Reysol 3 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2.
Nov 10: Kashima Antlers 3 FC Tokyo 1; Urawa Reds 3 Kashiwa Reysol 1; Jubilo Iwata 1 Yokohama F Marinos 0 (aet); Sanfrecce Hiroshima 3 Shimizu S-Pulse 0; JEF United Ichihara 2 Consadole Sapporo 0; Cerezo Osaka 3 Vissel Kobe 1; Tokyo Verdy 1969 3 Gamba Osaka 2; Nagoya Grampus Eight 1 Avispa Fukuoka 0.
Nov 17: Kashima Antlers 4 Tokyo Verdy 1969 0; Yokohama F Marinos 2 Gamba Osaka 1; Jubilo Iwata 1 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0; Nagoya Grampus Eight 5 JEF United Ichihara 1; Cerezo Osaka 2 Urawa Reds 1 (aet); Avispa Fukuoka 2 Shimizu S-Pulse 3 (aet); Kashiwa Reysol 1 Consadole Sapporo 0; FC Tokyo 1 Vissel Kobe 1 (aet).
Nov 24: Sanfrecce Hiroshima 4 Kashima Antlers 1; Vissel Kobe 1 Yokohama F Marinos 1 (aet); Gamba Osaka 3 Avispa Fukuoka 2; Shimizu S-Pulse 1 Kashiwa Reysol 0; Urawa Reds 2 Nagoya Grampus Eight 0; JEF United Ichihara 2 Jubilo Iwata 4; Tokyo Verdy 1969 1 FC Tokyo 0; Consadole Sapporo 0 Cerezo Osaka 1.

JAPAN: SECOND STAGE – FINAL

	P	W1	W2	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kashima Antlers	15	10	3	0	2	36	19	36
Jubilo Iwata	15	9	4	0	2	31	14	35
Sanfrecce H	15	8	0	0	7	36	27	24
Shimizu S-Pulse	15	5	4	0	6	34	27	23
JEF United	15	7	0	2	6	25	28	23
Grampus Eight	15	7	0	1	7	27	25	22
Kashiwa Reysol	15	6	0	3	6	29	23	21
FC Tokyo	15	5	0	5	5	29	28	20
Tokyo Verdy 1969	15	6	0	2	7	22	26	20
Yokohama FM	15	4	2	3	6	19	20	19
Gamba Osaka	15	5	0	2	8	21	16	17
Urawa Reds	15	4	0	3	8	20	24	15
Vissel Kobe	15	3	0	5	7	25	32	14
Consadole Sapp	15	3	1	2	9	23	29	13
Avispa Fukuoka	15	3	1	2	9	22	31	13
Cerezo Osaka	15	2	3	0	10	19	39	12

W1 = win in 90mins – 3pts; W2 = win in extra time – 2pts; Draw = 1pt

JAPAN – OVERALL*

	P	W1	W2	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jubilo Iwata	30	18	8	1	3	63	26	71
Kashima Antlers	30	15	4	1	10	57	42	54
JEF United	30	14	3	2	11	60	54	50
Shimizu S-Pulse	30	11	8	0	11	62	45	49
Grampus Eight	30	12	5	3	10	56	45	49
Kashiwa Reysol	30	12	2	3	13	58	46	43
Gamba Osaka	30	12	2	2	14	50	48	42
FC Tokyo	30	10	3	5	12	47	47	41
Sanfrecce H	30	11	2	0	17	61	60	37
Urawa Reds	30	10	1	4	15	44	46	36
Consadole Sapp	30	9	1	5	15	43	50	34
Vissel Kobe	30	8	1	7	14	41	52	33
Yokohama FM	30	7	2	5	16	32	44	30
Tokyo Verdy 1969	30	8	2	2	18	38	57	30
Avispa Fukuoka	30	7	2	2	19	35	56	27
Cerezo Osaka	30	5	3	2	20	41	70	23

**1st and 2nd stage combined*
Relegated: Avispa Fukuoka, Cerezo Osaka
Promoted: Kyoto Purple Sanga, Vegalta Sendai

SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Geylang Utd	33	23	7	3	84	28	76
Armed Forces	33	24	2	7	101	46	74
Home Utd	33	23	3	7	69	36	72
Tanjong Pagar	33	18	6	9	68	47	60
Jurong	33	15	6	12	65	57	51
Tampines Rovers	33	14	6	13	60	55	48
Balestier Central	33	8	11	14	43	57	35
Sembawang	33	8	7	18	45	80	31
Clementi Khalsa	33	7	9	17	43	76	30
Gombak Utd	33	8	4	21	36	72	28
Marine Castle	33	7	6	20	35	71	27
Woodlands	33	5	9	19	40	64	24

SOUTH KOREA

SOUTH KOREA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Songnam Ilhwa	27	11	12	4	35	20	45
Anyang Cheetahs	27	11	10	6	30	23	43
Suwon Bluewings	27	12	5	10	40	35	41
Pusan Icons	27	10	11	6	38	33	41
Pohang Steelers	27	10	8	9	28	29	38
Ulsan Hyundai	27	10	6	11	34	39	36
Bucheon SK	27	7	14	6	29	29	35
Chunnam Dragons	27	6	10	11	28	33	28
Chonbuk Hyundai	27	5	10	12	23	33	25
Taejon Citizen	27	5	10	12	25	36	25

2002 WORLD CUP

QUALIFYING CAMPAIGN IN FULL

AFRICA

5 teams to qualify

FIRST ROUND

07.04.00.....Djibouti-DR Congo 1-1
23.04.00.....DR Congo-Djibouti 9-1
.....*DR Congo 10-2 on agg*
07.04.00.....Mauritania-Tunisia 1-2
22.04.00.....Tunisia-Mauritania 3-0
.....*Tunisia 5-1 on agg*
08.04.00.....Botswana-Zambia 0-1
22.04.00.....Zambia-Botswana 1-0
.....*Zambia 2-0 on agg*
08.04.00.....Guinea-Bissau-Togo 0-0
23.04.00.....Togo-Guinea-Bissau 3-0
.....*Togo 3-0 on agg*
08.04.00.....Madagascar-Gabon 2-0
22.04.00.....Gabon-Madagascar 1-0
.....*Madagascar 2-1 on agg*
08.04.00.....Malawi-Kenya.....2-0
22.04.00.....Kenya-Malawi.....0-0
.....*2nd leg abandoned after 88mins – .....*
.....*result stood. Malawi 2-0 on agg*
08.04.00.....Sao Tome e Principe-Sierra Leone.2-0
22.04.00.....Sierra Leone-Sao Tome e Principe.4-0
.....*Sierra Leone 4-2 on agg*
08.04.00.....Seychelles-Namibia.....1-1
22.04.00.....Namibia-Seychelles.....3-0
.....*Namibia 4-1 on agg*
08.04.00.....Tanzania-Ghana 0-1
23.04.00.....Ghana-Tanzania 3-2
.....*Ghana 4-2 on agg*
08.04.00.....Uganda-Guinea.....4-4
23.04.00.....Guinea-Uganda.....3-0
.....*Guinea 7-4 on agg*
09.04.00.....Benin-Senegal 1-1
23.04.00.....Senegal-Benin 1-0
.....*Senegal 2-1 on agg*
09.04.00.....Cape Verde Islands-Algeria 0-0
21.04.00.....Algeria-Cape Verde Islands 2-0
.....*Algeria 2-0 on agg*
09.04.00.....Central African Rep-Zimbabwe 0-1
23.04.00.....Zimbabwe-Central African Rep 3-1
.....*Zimbabwe 4-1 on agg*
09.04.00.....Chad-Liberia.....0-1
23.04.00.....Liberia-Chad.....0-0
.....*Liberia 1-0 on agg*
09.04.00.....Equatorial Guinea-Congo.....1-3
23.04.00.....Congo-Equatorial Guinea.....2-1
.....*Congo 5-2 on agg*
09.04.00.....Eritrea-Nigeria.....0-0
22.04.00.....Nigeria-Eritrea.....4-0
.....*Nigeria 4-0 on agg*
09.04.00.....Ethiopia-Burkina Faso 2-1
23.04.00.....Burkina Faso-Ethiopia 3-0
.....*Burkina Faso 4-2 on agg*
09.04.00.....Gambia-Morocco 0-1
22.04.00.....Morocco-Gambia 2-0
.....*Morocco 3-0 on agg*
09.04.00.....Lesotho-South Africa.....0-2
22.04.00.....South Africa-Lesotho.....1-0
.....*South Africa 3-0 on agg*
09.04.00.....Libya-Mali.....3-0
23.04.00.....Mali-Libya.....3-1
.....*Libya 4-3 on agg*
09.04.00.....Rwanda-Ivory Coast 2-2
23.04.00.....Ivory Coast-Rwanda 2-0
.....*Ivory Coast 4-2 on agg*
09.04.00.....Sudan-Mozambique 1-0
23.04.00.....Mozambique-Sudan 2-1
.....*Agg 2-2. Sudan on away goals*
09.04.00.....Swaziland-Angola.....0-1
23.04.00.....Angola-Swaziland.....7-1
.....*Angola 8-1 on agg*
19.04.00.....Somalia-Cameroon* 0-3
23.04.00.....Cameroon-Somalia.....3-0
.....*Cameroon 6-0 on agg*
20.04.00.....Mauritius-Egypt* 0-2
23.04.00.....Egypt-Mauritius.....4-2
.....*Egypt 6-2 on agg*

Winners qualified for second round.
**Somalia and Mauritius forfeited the right to stage the first leg at home.*

SECOND ROUND

Group A

Angola, Cameroon, Libya, Togo, Zambia

18.06.00.....Angola-Zambia.....2-1
18.06.00.....Libya-Cameroon.....0-3
08.07.00.....Zambia-Togo.....2-0
09.07.00.....Cameroon-Angola.....3-0
28.01.01.....Angola-Libya 3-1
28.01.01.....Togo-Cameroon 0-2
23.02.01.....Libya-Togo 3-3
25.02.01.....Cameroon-Zambia 1-0
10.03.01.....Zambia-Libya 2-0
11.03.01.....Togo-Angola.....1-1
21.04.01.....Zambia-Angola.....1-1
22.04.01.....Cameroon-Libya.....1-0
06.05.01.....Angola-Cameroon 2-0
06.05.01.....Togo-Zambia 3-2
29.06.01.....Libya-Angola 1-1
01.07.01.....Cameroon-Togo 2-0
14.07.01.....Zambia-Cameroon 2-2
15.07.01.....Togo-Libya 2-0
27.07.01.....Libya-Zambia 2-4
29.07.01.....Angola-Togo.....1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	8	6	1	1	14	4	19
Angola	8	3	4	1	11	9	13
Zambia	8	3	2	3	14	11	11
Togo	8	2	3	3	10	13	9
Libya	8	0	2	6	7	19	2

Group B

Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan

17.06.00.....Nigeria-Sierra Leone.....2-0
18.06.00.....Sudan-Liberia 2-0
09.07.00.....Ghana-Sierra Leone 5-0
09.07.00.....Liberia-Nigeria 2-1
27.01.01.....Nigeria-Sudan 3-0
28.01.01.....Ghana-Liberia 1-3
25.02.01.....Liberia-Sierra Leone 1-0
25.02.01.....Sudan-Ghana 1-0
10.03.01.....Sierra Leone-Sudan 0-2
11.03.01.....Ghana-Nigeria.....0-0
21.04.01.....Sierra Leone-Nigeria.....1-0
22.04.01.....Liberia-Sudan 2-0
05.05.01.....Nigeria-Liberia 2-0
05.05.01.....Sierra Leone-Ghana 1-1
01.07.01.....Liberia-Ghana 1-2
01.07.01.....Sudan-Nigeria.....0-4
14.07.01.....Sierra Leone-Liberia 0-1
15.07.01.....Ghana-Sudan 1-0
29.07.01.....Nigeria-Ghana.....3-0
29.07.01.....Sudan-Sierra Leone 3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	8	5	1	2	15	3	16
Liberia	8	5	0	3	10	8	15
Sudan	8	4	0	4	8	10	12
Ghana	8	3	2	3	10	9	11
Sierra Leone	8	1	1	6	2	15	4

Group C

Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal

16.06.00 .....Algeria-Senegal.....1-1
17.06.00 .....Namibia-Morocco.....0-0
09.07.00 .....Morocco-Algeria.....2-1
09.07.00 .....Senegal-Egypt.....0-0
26.01.01 .....Algeria-Namibia 1-0
28.01.01 .....Egypt-Morocco 0-0
24.02.01 .....Morocco-Senegal 0-0
24.02.01 .....Namibia-Egypt.....1-1
10.03.01 .....Senegal-Namibia.....4-0
11.03.01 .....Egypt-Algeria.....5-2
21.04.01 .....Morocco-Namibia.....3-0
21.04.01 .....Senegal-Algeria.....3-0
04.05.01 .....Algeria-Morocco.....1-2
06.05.01 .....Egypt-Senegal 1-0
30.06.01 .....Morocco-Egypt 1-0
30.06.01 .....Namibia-Algeria 0-4
13.07.01 .....Egypt-Namibia.....8-2
14.07.01 .....Senegal-Morocco 1-0
21.07.01 .....Algeria-Egypt.....1-1
21.07.01 .....Namibia-Senegal.....0-5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Senegal	8	4	3	1	14	2	15
Morocco	8	4	3	1	8	3	15
Egypt	8	3	4	1	16	7	13
Algeria	8	2	2	4	11	14	8
Namibia	8	0	2	6	3	26	2

Group D

Congo, DR Congo, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Tunisia

18.06.00.....Ivory Coast-Tunisia.....2-2
18.06.00.....Madagascar-DR Congo.....3-0
08.07.00.....Tunisia-Madagascar.....1-0
09.07.00.....DR Congo-Congo 2-0
28.01.01.....Congo-Tunisia 1-2
28.01.01.....Madagascar-Ivory Coast 1-3
25.02.01.....Tunisia-DR Congo.....6-0
10.03.01.....DR Congo-Ivory Coast.....1-2
22.04.01.....DR Congo-Madagascar.....1-0
22.04.01.....Ivory Coast-Congo 2-0
27.04.01.....Congo-Madagascar 2-0
05.05.01.....Madagascar-Tunisia.....0-2
06.05.01.....Congo-DR Congo 1-1
20.05.01.....Tunisia-Ivory Coast.....1-1
01.07.01.....Ivory Coast-Madagascar 6-0
01.07.01.....Tunisia-Congo 6-0
15.07.01.....Congo-Ivory Coast 1-1
15.07.01.....DR Congo-Tunisia.....0-3
29.07.01.....Ivory Coast-DR Congo.....1-2
29.07.01.....Madagascar-Congo 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tunisia	8	6	2	0	23	4	20
Ivory Coast	8	4	3	1	18	8	15
DR Congo	8	3	1	4	7	16	10
Madagascar	8	2	0	6	5	15	6
Congo	8	1	2	5	5	15	5

Group E

Burkina Faso, Guinea (expelled), Malawi, South Africa, Zimbabwe

17.06.00.....Malawi-Burkina Faso.....1-1
18.06.00.....Guinea-Zimbabwe.....(annulled) 3-0
09.07.00.....Burkina Faso-Guinea .....(annulled) 2-3
09.07.00.....Zimbabwe-South Africa**.....0-2
27.01.01.....South Africa-Burkina Faso.....1-0
28.01.01.....Guinea-Malawi.....(annulled) 1-1
24.02.01.....Burkina Faso-Zimbabwe.....1-2
25.02.01.....Malawi-South Africa 1-2
11.03.01.....Zimbabwe-Malawi 2-0
21.04.01.....Burkina Faso-Malawi.....4-2
05.05.01.....South Africa-Zimbabwe 2-1
01.07.01.....Burkina Faso-South Africa.....1-1
14.07.01.....South Africa-Malawi 2-0
15.07.01.....Zimbabwe-Burkina Faso.....1-0
28.07.01.....Malawi-Zimbabwe 0-1
***Match abandoned after 82 minutes; result stood*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Africa	6	5	1	0	10	3	16
Zimbabwe	6	4	0	2	7	5	12
Burkina Faso	6	1	2	3	7	8	5
Malawi	6	0	1	5	4	12	1

Guinea expelled; results expunged

The five group winners qualified for the finals.

ASIA

2 or 3 teams to qualify, plus co-hosts Japan and South Korea

FIRST ROUND

Group 1

Laos, Oman, Philippines, Syria

30.04.01.....Oman-Laos 12-0
30.04.01.....Syria-Philippines 12-0
04.05.01.....Laos-Oman*.....0-7
04.05.01.....Philippines-Syria 1-5
07.05.01.....Oman-Philippines 7-0
07.05.01.....Syria-Laos 11-0
11.05.01.....Laos-Syria** 0-9
11.05.01.....Philippines-Oman*.....0-2
18.05.01.....Syria-Oman 3-3
19.05.01.....Laos-Philippines 2-0
25.05.01.....Oman-Syria 2-0
26.05.01.....Philippines-Laos 1-1
Ties played on a home and away basis
**Played in Muscat; Laos and Philippines waived right to stage game. **Played in Aleppo; Laos waived right to stage game*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oman	6	5	1	0	33	3	16
Syria	6	4	1	1	40	6	13
Laos	6	1	1	4	3	40	4
Philippines	6	0	1	5	2	29	1

The 32 finalists

ARGENTINA
BELGIUM
BRAZIL
CAMEROON
CHINA
COSTA RICA
CROATIA
DENMARK
ECUADOR
ENGLAND
FRANCE (holders)
GERMANY
ITALY
JAPAN (co-hosts)
MEXICO
NIGERIA
PARAGUAY
POLAND
PORTUGAL
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
RUSSIA
SAUDI ARABIA
SENEGAL
SLOVENIA
SOUTH AFRICA
SOUTH KOREA (co-hosts)
SPAIN
SWEDEN
TUNISIA
TURKEY
UNITED STATES
URUGUAY

Group 2

Guam, Iran, Myanmar (withdrew), Tajikistan

24.11.00.....Iran-Guam 19-0
26.11.00.....Tajikistan-Guam 16-0
28.11.00.....Iran-Tajikistan 2-0
All ties played in Tabriz, Iran

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	2	2	0	0	21	0	6
Tajikistan	2	1	0	1	16	2	3
Guam	2	0	0	2	0	35	0

Group 3

Hong Kong, Malaysia, Palestine, Qatar

04.03.01.....Qatar-Malaysia 5-1
04.03.01.....Hong Kong-Palestine 1-1
08.03.01.....Palestine-Qatar.....1-2
08.03.01.....Malaysia-Hong Kong 2-0
11.03.01.....Palestine-Malaysia 1-0
11.03.01.....Qatar-Hong Kong.....2-0
Ties played in Hong Kong

20.03.01.....Palestine-Hong Kong.....1-0
20.03.01.....Malaysia-Qatar 0-0
23.03.01.....Qatar-Palestine.....2-1
23.03.01.....Hong Kong-Malaysia 2-1
25.03.01.....Hong Kong-Qatar 0-3
25.03.01.....Malaysia-Palestine 4-3
Ties played in Doha, Qatar

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Qatar	6	5	1	0	14	3	16
Palestine	6	2	1	3	8	9	7
Malaysia	6	2	1	3	8	11	7
Hong Kong	6	1	1	4	3	10	4

Group 4

Bahrain, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Singapore

03.02.01.....Bahrain-Kuwait.....1-2
03.02.01.....Singapore-Kyrgyzstan.....0-1
06.02.01.....Bahrain-Kyrgyzstan.....1-0
06.02.01.....Kuwait-Singapore.....1-1
09.02.01.....Kyrgyzstan-Kuwait.....0-3
09.02.01.....Singapore-Bahrain.....1-2
Ties played in Singapore

21.02.01.....Kyrgyzstan-Bahrain.....1-2
21.02.01.....Singapore-Kuwait.....0-1
24.02.01.....Kuwait-Kyrgyzstan.....2-0
24.02.01.....Bahrain-Singapore.....2-0
27.02.01.....Kyrgyzstan-Singapore.....1-1
27.02.01.....Kuwait-Bahrain.....0-1
Ties played in Kuwait City

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bahrain	6	5	0	1	9	4	15
Kuwait	6	4	1	1	9	3	13
Kyrgyzstan	6	1	1	4	3	9	4
Singapore	6	0	2	4	3	8	2

Group 5

Lebanon, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand

13.05.01.....Thailand-Sri Lanka.....4-2
13.05.01.....Lebanon-Pakistan.....6-0
15.05.01.....Thailand-Pakistan.....3-0
15.05.01.....Lebanon-Sri Lanka.....4-0
17.05.01.....Pakistan-Sri Lanka.....3-3
17.05.01.....Lebanon-Thailand.....1-2
Ties played in Beirut, Lebanon

26.05.01.....Pakistan-Lebanon.....1-8
26.05.01.....Sri Lanka-Thailand.....0-3
28.05.01.....Sri Lanka-Lebanon.....0-5
28.05.01.....Pakistan-Thailand.....0-6
30.05.01.....Sri Lanka-Pakistan.....3-1
30.05.01.....Thailand-Lebanon.....2-2
Ties played in Bangkok, Thailand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Thailand	6	5	1	0	20	5	16
Lebanon	6	4	1	1	26	5	13
Sri Lanka	6	1	1	4	8	20	4
Pakistan	6	0	1	5	5	29	1

Group 6

Iraq, Kazakhstan, Macao, Nepal

12.04.01.....Nepal-Kazakhstan.....0-6
12.04.01.....Iraq-Macao.....8-0
14.04.01.....Kazakhstan-Macao.....3-0
14.04.01.....Nepal-Iraq.....1-9
16.04.01.....Nepal-Macao.....4-1
16.04.01.....Kazakhstan-Iraq.....1-1
Ties played in Baghdad, Iraq

21.04.01.....Kazakhstan-Nepal.....4-0
21.04.01.....Macao-Iraq.....0-5
23.04.01.....Macao-Kazakhstan.....0-5
23.04.01.....Iraq-Nepal.....4-2
25.04.01.....Macao-Nepal.....1-6
25.04.01.....Iraq-Kazakhstan.....1-1
Ties played in Almaty, Kazakhstan

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iraq	6	4	2	0	28	5	14
Kazakhstan	6	4	2	0	20	2	14
Nepal	6	2	0	4	13	25	6
Macao	6	0	0	6	2	31	0

Group 7

Uzbekistan, Jordan, Turkmenistan, Taiwan

23.04.01.....Turkmenistan-Jordan.....2-0
23.04.01.....Uzbekistan-Taiwan.....7-0
25.04.01.....Taiwan-Jordan.....0-2
25.04.01.....Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan.....1-0
27.04.01.....Taiwan-Turkmenistan.....0-5
27.04.01.....Uzbekistan-Jordan.....2-2
Ties played in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

03.05.01.....Jordan-Taiwan.....6-0
03.05.01.....Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan.....2-5
05.05.01.....Taiwan-Uzbekistan.....0-4
05.05.01.....Jordan-Turkmenistan.....1-2
07.05.01.....Turkmenistan-Taiwan.....1-0
07.05.01.....Jordan-Uzbekistan.....1-1
Ties played in Amman, Jordan

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uzbekistan	6	4	2	0	20	5	14
Turkmenistan	6	4	0	2	12	7	12
Jordan	6	2	2	2	12	7	8
Taiwan	6	0	0	6	0	25	0

Group 8

Brunei, India, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

07.04.01.....Brunei-Yemen.....0-5
08.04.01.....India-United Arab Emirates.....1-0
14.04.01.....Brunei-United Arab Emirates.....0-12
15.04.01.....India-Yemen.....1-1
26.04.01.....United Arab Emirates-India.....1-0
27.04.01.....Yemen-Brunei.....1-0
04.05.01.....United Arab Emirates-Brunei.....4-0
04.05.01.....Yemen-India.....3-3
11.05.01.....Yemen-United Arab Emirates.....2-1
12.05.01.....Brunei-India.....0-1
18.05.01.....United Arab Emirates-Yemen.....3-2
20.05.01.....India-Brunei.....5-0
Ties played on a home and away basis

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UAE	6	4	0	2	21	5	12
Yemen	6	3	2	1	14	8	11
India	6	3	2	1	11	5	11
Brunei	6	0	0	6	0	28	0

Group 9

Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Maldives

01.04.01.....Maldives-Cambodia.....6-0
08.04.01.....Indonesia-Maldives.....5-0
15.04.01.....Cambodia-Maldives.....1-1
22.04.01.....China-Maldives.....10-1
22.04.01.....Indonesia-Cambodia.....6-0
28.04.01.....Maldives-China.....0-1
29.04.01.....Cambodia-Indonesia.....0-2
06.05.01.....Cambodia-China.....0-4
06.05.01.....Maldives-Indonesia.....0-2
13.05.01.....China-Indonesia.....5-1
20.05.01.....China-Cambodia.....3-1
27.05.01.....Indonesia-China.....0-2
Ties played on a home and away basis

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
China	6	6	0	0	25	3	18
Indonesia	6	4	0	2	16	7	12
Maldives	6	1	1	4	8	19	4
Cambodia	6	0	1	5	2	22	1

Group 10

Bangladesh, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam

08.02.01.....Vietnam-Bangladesh.....0-0
08.02.01.....Saudi Arabia-Mongolia.....6-0
10.02.01.....Mongolia-Vietnam.....0-1
10.02.01.....Bangladesh-Saudi Arabia.....0-3
12.02.01.....Mongolia-Bangladesh.....0-3
12.02.01.....Saudi Arabia-Vietnam.....5-0
15.02.01.....Mongolia-Saudi Arabia.....0-6
15.02.01.....Bangladesh-Vietnam.....0-4
17.02.01.....Vietnam-Mongolia.....4-0
17.02.01.....Saudi Arabia-Bangladesh.....6-0
19.02.01.....Bangladesh-Mongolia.....2-2
19.02.01.....Vietnam-Saudi Arabia.....0-4
All ties played in Dammam, Saudi Arabia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saudi Arabia	6	6	0	0	30	0	18
Vietnam	6	3	1	2	9	9	10
Bangladesh	6	1	2	3	5	15	5
Mongolia	6	0	1	5	2	22	1

The 10 group winners qualified for second round.

SECOND ROUND

Group A

Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Thailand

17.08.01.....Iraq-Thailand.....4-0
17.08.01.....Saudi Arabia-Bahrain.....1-1
23.08.01.....Bahrain-Iraq.....2-0
24.08.01.....Iran-Saudi Arabia.....2-0
31.08.01.....Saudi Arabia-Iraq.....1-0
01.09.01.....Thailand-Iran.....0-0
06.09.01.....Bahrain-Thailand.....1-1
07.09.01.....Iraq-Iran.....1-2
14.09.01.....Iran-Bahrain.....0-0
15.09.01.....Thailand-Saudi Arabia.....1-3
21.09.01.....Bahrain-Saudi Arabia.....0-4
22.09.01.....Thailand-Iraq.....1-1
28.09.01.....Iraq-Bahrain.....1-0
28.09.01.....Saudi Arabia-Iran.....2-2
05.10.01.....Iran-Thailand.....1-0
05.10.01.....Iraq-Saudi Arabia.....1-2
12.10.01.....Iran-Iraq.....2-1
16.10.01.....Thailand-Bahrain.....1-1
21.10.01.....Bahrain-Iran.....3-1
21.10.01.....Saudi Arabia-Thailand.....4-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saudi Arabia	8	5	2	1	17	8	17
Iran	8	4	3	1	10	7	15
Bahrain	8	2	4	2	8	9	10
Iraq	8	2	1	5	9	10	7
Thailand	8	0	4	4	5	15	4

Group B

China, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan

16.08.01.....Qatar-Oman.....0-0
17.08.01.....United Arab Emirates-Uzbekistan.....4-1
25.08.01.....China-United Arab Emirates.....3-0
26.08.01.....Uzbekistan-Qatar.....2-1
31.08.01.....United Arab Emirates-Qatar.....0-2
31.08.01.....Oman-China.....0-2
07.09.01.....Qatar-China.....1-1
08.09.01.....Uzbekistan-Oman.....5-0
14.09.01.....Oman-United Arab Emirates.....1-1
15.09.01.....China-Uzbekistan.....2-0
21.09.01.....Oman-Qatar.....0-3
22.09.01.....Uzbekistan-United Arab Emirates.....0-1
27.09.01.....United Arab Emirates-China.....0-1
28.09.01.....Qatar-Uzbekistan.....2-2
04.10.01.....Qatar-United Arab Emirates.....1-2
07.10.01.....China-Oman.....1-0
13.10.01.....Oman-Uzbekistan.....4-2
13.10.01.....China-Qatar.....3-0
19.10.01.....United Arab Emirates-Oman.....2-2
19.10.01.....Uzbekistan-China.....1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
China	8	6	1	1	13	2	19
UAE	8	3	2	3	10	11	11
Uzbekistan	8	3	1	4	13	14	10
Qatar	8	2	3	3	10	10	9
Oman	8	1	3	4	7	16	6

The two group winners qualified automatically for the finals. The two runners-up entered the Asian play-off.

ASIAN RUNNERS-UP PLAY-OFF

25.10.01.....Iran-United Arab Emirates.....1-0
31.10.01.....United Arab Emirates-Iran.....0-3
.....*Iran 4-0 on agg*

Iran entered the Asian/European play-off for a place in the finals.

ASIAN/EUROPEAN PLAY-OFF

10.11.01.....Rep of Ireland-Iran.....2-0
15.11.01.....Iran-Rep of Ireland.....1-0
.....*Rep of Ireland 2-1 on agg*

Rep of Ireland qualified for the finals.

EUROPE

13 or 14 teams to qualify, plus holders France

Group 1

Faroe Islands, Luxembourg, Russia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Yugoslavia

02.09.00.....Switzerland-Russia.....0-1
03.09.00.....Faroe Islands-Slovenia.....2-2
03.09.00.....Luxembourg-Yugoslavia.....0-2
07.10.00.....Luxembourg-Slovenia.....1-2
07.10.00.....Switzerland-Faroe Islands.....5-1
11.10.00.....Russia-Luxembourg.....3-0
11.10.00.....Slovenia-Switzerland.....2-2
24.03.01.....Luxembourg-Faroe Islands.....0-2
24.03.01.....Russia-Slovenia.....1-1
24.03.01.....Yugoslavia-Switzerland.....1-1
28.03.01.....Russia-Faroe Islands.....1-0
28.03.01.....Slovenia-Yugoslavia.....1-1
28.03.01.....Switzerland-Luxembourg.....5-0
25.04.01.....Yugoslavia-Russia.....0-1
02.06.01.....Faroe Islands-Switzerland.....0-1
02.06.01.....Russia-Yugoslavia.....1-1
02.06.01.....Slovenia-Luxembourg.....2-0
06.06.01.....Faroe Islands-Yugoslavia.....0-6
06.06.01.....Luxembourg-Russia.....1-2
06.06.01.....Switzerland-Slovenia.....0-1
15.08.01.....Yugoslavia-Faroe Islands.....2-0
01.09.01.....Faroe Islands-Luxembourg.....1-0
01.09.01.....Slovenia-Russia.....2-1
01.09.01.....Switzerland-Yugoslavia.....1-2
05.09.01.....Faroe Islands-Russia.....0-3
05.09.01.....Luxembourg-Switzerland.....0-3
05.09.01.....Yugoslavia-Slovenia.....1-1
06.10.01.....Russia-Switzerland.....4-0
06.10.01.....Slovenia-Faroe Islands.....3-0
06.10.01.....Yugoslavia-Luxembourg.....6-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	10	7	2	1	18	5	23
Slovenia	10	5	5	0	17	9	20
Yugoslavia	10	5	4	1	22	8	19
Switzerland	10	4	2	4	18	12	14
Faroe Islands	10	2	1	7	6	23	7
Luxembourg	10	0	0	10	4	28	0

Group 2

Andorra, Cyprus, Estonia, Holland, Portugal, Republic of Ireland

16.08.00.....Estonia-Andorra.....1-0
02.09.00.....Andorra-Cyprus.....2-3
02.09.00.....Holland-Rep of Ireland.....2-2
03.09.00.....Estonia-Portugal.....1-3
07.10.00.....Andorra-Estonia.....1-2
07.10.00.....Cyprus-Holland.....0-4
07.10.00.....Portugal-Rep of Ireland.....1-1
11.10.00.....Holland-Portugal.....0-2
11.10.00.....Rep of Ireland-Estonia.....2-0
15.11.00.....Cyprus-Andorra.....5-0
28.02.01.....Portugal-Andorra.....3-0
24.03.01.....Andorra-Holland.....0-5
24.03.01.....Cyprus-Rep of Ireland.....0-4
28.03.01.....Andorra-Rep of Ireland.....0-3
28.03.01.....Cyprus-Estonia.....2-2
28.03.01.....Portugal-Holland.....2-2
25.04.01.....Holland-Cyprus.....4-0
25.04.01.....Rep of Ireland-Andorra.....3-1
02.06.01.....Estonia-Holland.....2-4
02.06.01.....Rep of Ireland-Portugal.....1-1
06.06.01.....Estonia-Rep of Ireland.....0-2
06.06.01.....Portugal-Cyprus.....6-0
15.08.01.....Estonia-Cyprus.....2-2
01.09.01.....Andorra-Portugal.....1-7
01.09.01.....Rep of Ireland-Holland.....1-0
05.09.01.....Cyprus-Portugal.....1-3
05.09.01.....Holland-Estonia.....5-0
06.10.01.....Holland-Andorra.....4-0
06.10.01.....Portugal-Estonia.....5-0
06.10.01.....Rep of Ireland-Cyprus.....4-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	10	7	3	0	33	7	24
Rep of Ireland	10	7	3	0	23	5	24
Holland	10	6	2	2	30	9	20
Estonia	10	2	2	6	10	26	8
Cyprus	10	2	2	6	13	31	8
Andorra	10	0	0	10	5	36	0

Group 3

Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Iceland, Malta, Northern Ireland

02.09.00.....Bulgaria-Czech Republic.....0-1
02.09.00.....Iceland-Denmark.....1-2
02.09.00.....Northern Ireland-Malta.....1-0
07.10.00.....Bulgaria-Malta.....3-0
07.10.00.....Czech Republic-Iceland.....4-0
07.10.00.....Northern Ireland-Denmark.....1-1
11.10.00.....Denmark-Bulgaria.....1-1
11.10.00.....Iceland-Northern Ireland.....1-0
11.10.00.....Malta-Czech Republic.....0-0
24.03.01.....Bulgaria-Iceland.....2-1
24.03.01.....Malta-Denmark.....0-5
24.03.01.....Northern Ireland-Czech Republic.....0-1
28.03.01.....Bulgaria-Northern Ireland.....4-3
28.03.01.....Czech Republic-Denmark.....0-0
25.04.01.....Malta-Iceland.....1-4
02.06.01.....Denmark-Czech Republic.....2-1
02.06.01.....Iceland-Malta.....3-0
02.06.01.....Northern Ireland-Bulgaria.....0-1

06.06.01 .....Czech Republic-Northern Ireland ...3-1
06.06.01 .....Denmark-Malta ...2-1
06.06.01 .....Iceland-Bulgaria ...1-1
01.09.01 .....Denmark-Northern Ireland ...1-1
01.09.01 .....Iceland-Czech Republic ...3-1
01.09.01 .....Malta-Bulgaria ...0-2
05.09.01 .....Bulgaria-Denmark ...0-2
05.09.01 .....Czech Republic-Malta ...3-2
05.09.01 .....Northern Ireland-Iceland ...3-0
06.10.01 .....Czech Republic-Bulgaria ...6-0
06.10.01 .....Denmark-Iceland ...6-0
06.10.01 .....Malta-Northern Ireland ...0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	10	6	4	0	22	6	22
Czech Republic	10	6	2	2	20	8	20
Bulgaria	10	5	2	3	14	15	17
Iceland	10	4	1	5	14	20	13
Northern Ireland	10	3	2	5	11	12	11
Malta	10	0	1	9	4	24	1

Group 4

Azerbaijan, Macedonia, Moldova, Slovakia, Sweden, Turkey

02.09.00 .....Azerbaijan-Sweden ...0-1
02.09.00 .....Turkey-Moldova ...2-0
03.09.00 .....Slovakia-Macedonia ...2-0
06.10.00 .....Macedonia-Azerbaijan ...3-0
07.10.00 .....Moldova-Slovakia ...0-1
07.10.00 .....Sweden-Turkey ...1-1
11.10.00 .....Azerbaijan-Turkey ...0-1
11.10.00 .....Moldova-Macedonia ...0-0
11.10.00 .....Slovakia-Sweden ...0-0
24.03.01 .....Azerbaijan-Moldova ...0-0
24.03.01 .....Sweden-Macedonia ...1-0
24.03.01 .....Turkey-Slovakia ...1-1
28.03.01 .....Macedonia-Turkey ...1-2
28.03.01 .....Moldova-Sweden ...0-2
28.03.01 .....Slovakia-Azerbaijan ...3-1
02.06.01 .....Macedonia-Moldova ...2-2
02.06.01 .....Sweden-Slovakia ...2-0
02.06.01 .....Turkey-Azerbaijan ...3-0
06.06.01 .....Azerbaijan-Slovakia ...2-0
06.06.01 .....Sweden-Moldova ...6-0
06.06.01 .....Turkey-Macedonia ...3-3
01.09.01 .....Macedonia-Sweden ...1-2
01.09.01 .....Moldova-Azerbaijan ...2-0
01.09.01 .....Slovakia-Turkey ...0-1
05.09.01 .....Azerbaijan-Macedonia ...1-1
05.09.01 .....Slovakia-Moldova ...4-2
05.09.01 .....Turkey-Sweden ...1-2
06.10.01 .....Moldova-Turkey ...0-3
07.10.01 .....Macedonia-Slovakia ...0-5
07.10.01 .....Sweden-Azerbaijan ...3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	10	8	2	0	20	3	26
Turkey	10	6	3	1	18	8	21
Slovakia	10	5	2	3	16	9	17
Macedonia	10	1	4	5	11	18	7
Moldova	10	1	3	6	6	20	6
Azerbaijan	10	1	2	7	4	17	5

Group 5

Armenia, Belarus, Norway, Poland, Ukraine, Wales

02.09.00 .....Belarus-Wales ...2-1
02.09.00 .....Norway-Armenia ...0-0
02.09.00 .....Ukraine-Poland ...1-3
07.10.00 .....Armenia-Ukraine ...2-3
07.10.00 .....Poland-Belarus ...3-1
07.10.00 .....Wales-Norway ...1-1
11.10.00 .....Belarus-Armenia ...2-1
11.10.00 .....Norway-Ukraine ...0-1
11.10.00 .....Poland-Wales ...0-0
24.03.01 .....Armenia-Wales ...2-2
24.03.01 .....Norway-Poland ...2-3
24.03.01 .....Ukraine-Belarus ...0-0
28.03.01 .....Belarus-Norway ...2-1
28.03.01 .....Poland-Armenia ...4-0
28.03.01 .....Wales-Ukraine ...1-1
02.06.01 .....Armenia-Belarus ...0-0
02.06.01 .....Ukraine-Norway ...0-0
02.06.01 .....Wales-Poland ...1-2
06.06.01 .....Armenia-Poland ...1-1
06.06.01 .....Norway-Belarus ...1-1
06.06.01 .....Ukraine-Wales ...1-1
01.09.01 .....Belarus-Ukraine ...0-2
01.09.01 .....Poland-Norway ...3-0
01.09.01 .....Wales-Armenia ...0-0
05.09.01 .....Belarus-Poland ...4-1
05.09.01 .....Norway-Wales ...3-2
05.09.01 .....Ukraine-Armenia ...3-0
06.10.01 .....Armenia-Norway ...1-4
06.10.01 .....Poland-Ukraine ...1-1
06.10.01 .....Wales-Belarus ...1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	10	6	3	1	21	11	21
Ukraine	10	4	5	1	13	8	17
Belarus	10	4	3	3	12	11	15
Norway	10	2	4	4	12	14	10
Wales	10	1	6	3	10	12	9
Armenia	10	0	5	5	7	19	5

Group 6

Belgium, Croatia, Latvia, San Marino, Scotland

02.09.00 .....Belgium-Croatia ...0-0
02.09.00 .....Latvia-Scotland ...0-1
07.10.00 .....Latvia-Belgium ...0-4
07.10.00 .....San Marino-Scotland ...0-2
11.10.00 .....Croatia-Scotland ...1-1
15.11.00 .....San Marino-Latvia ...0-1
28.02.01 .....Belgium-San Marino ...10-1
24.03.01 .....Croatia-Latvia ...4-1
24.03.01 .....Scotland-Belgium ...2-2
28.03.01 .....Scotland-San Marino ...4-0
25.04.01 .....Latvia-San Marino ...1-1
02.06.01 .....Belgium-Latvia ...3-1
02.06.01 .....Croatia-San Marino ...4-0
06.06.01 .....Latvia-Croatia ...0-1
06.06.01 .....San Marino-Belgium ...1-4
01.09.01 .....Scotland-Croatia ...0-0
05.09.01 .....Belgium-Scotland ...2-0
05.09.01 .....San Marino-Croatia ...0-4
06.10.01 .....Croatia-Belgium ...1-0
06.10.01 .....Scotland-Latvia ...2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	8	5	3	0	15	2	18
Belgium	8	5	2	1	25	6	17
Scotland	8	4	3	1	12	6	15
Latvia	8	1	1	6	5	16	4
San Marino	8	0	1	7	3	30	1

Group 7

Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Israel, Liechtenstein, Spain

02.09.00 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Spain ...1-2
03.09.00 .....Israel-Liechtenstein ...2-0
07.10.00 .....Liechtenstein-Austria ...0-1
07.10.00 .....Spain-Israel ...2-0
11.10.00 .....Austria-Spain ...1-1
11.10.00 .....Israel-Bosnia-Herzegovina ...3-1
24.03.01 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Austria ...1-1
24.03.01 .....Spain-Liechtenstein ...5-0
28.03.01 .....Austria-Israel ...2-1
28.03.01 .....Liechtenstein-Bosnia-Herz ...0-3
25.04.01 .....Austria-Liechtenstein ...2-0
02.06.01 .....Liechtenstein-Israel ...0-3
02.06.01 .....Spain-Bosnia-Herzegovina ...4-1
06.06.01 .....Israel-Spain ...1-1
01.09.01 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Israel ...0-0
01.09.01 .....Spain-Austria ...4-0
05.09.01 .....Austria-Bosnia-Herzegovina ...2-0
05.09.01 .....Liechtenstein-Spain ...0-2
07.10.01 .....Bosnia-Herz-Liechtenstein ...5-0
27.10.01 .....Israel-Austria ...1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	8	6	2	0	21	4	20
Austria	8	4	3	1	10	8	15
Israel	8	3	3	2	11	7	12
Bosnia-Herz	8	2	2	4	12	12	8
Liechtenstein	8	0	0	8	0	23	0

Group 8

Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Romania

03.09.00 .....Hungary-Italy ...2-2
03.09.00 .....Romania-Lithuania ...1-0
07.10.00 .....Italy-Romania ...3-0
07.10.00 .....Lithuania-Georgia ...0-4
11.10.00 .....Italy-Georgia ...2-0
11.10.00 .....Lithuania-Hungary ...1-6
24.03.01 .....Hungary-Lithuania ...1-1
24.03.01 .....Romania-Italy ...0-2
28.03.01 .....Georgia-Romania ...0-2
28.03.01 .....Italy-Lithuania ...4-0
02.06.01 .....Georgia-Italy ...1-2
02.06.01 .....Romania-Hungary ...2-0
06.06.01 .....Hungary-Georgia ...4-1
06.06.01 .....Lithuania-Romania ...1-2
01.09.01 .....Georgia-Hungary ...3-1
01.09.01 .....Lithuania-Italy ...0-0
05.09.01 .....Georgia-Lithuania ...2-0
05.09.01 .....Hungary-Romania ...0-2
06.10.01 .....Italy-Hungary ...1-0
06.10.01 .....Romania-Georgia ...1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	8	6	2	0	16	3	20
Romania	8	5	1	2	10	7	16
Georgia	8	3	1	4	12	12	10
Hungary	8	2	2	4	14	13	8
Lithuania	8	0	2	6	3	20	2

Group 9

Albania, England, Finland, Germany, Greece

02.09.00 .....Finland-Albania ...2-1
02.09.00 .....Germany-Greece ...2-0
07.10.00 .....England-Germany ...0-1
07.10.00 .....Greece-Finland ...1-0
11.10.00 .....Albania-Greece ...2-0
11.10.00 .....Finland-England ...0-0
24.03.01 .....England-Finland ...2-1
24.03.01 .....Germany-Albania ...2-1
28.03.01 .....Albania-England ...1-3
28.03.01 .....Greece-Germany ...2-4
02.06.01 .....Finland-Germany ...2-2
02.06.01 .....Greece-Albania ...1-0
06.06.01 .....Albania-Germany ...0-2
06.06.01 .....Greece-England ...0-2
01.09.01 .....Albania-Finland ...0-2
01.09.01 .....Germany-England ...1-5
05.09.01 .....England-Albania ...2-0
05.09.01 .....Finland-Greece ...5-1
06.10.01 .....England-Greece ...2-2
06.10.01 .....Germany-Finland ...0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	8	5	2	1	16	6	17
Germany	8	5	2	1	14	10	17
Finland	8	3	3	2	12	7	12
Greece	8	2	1	5	7	17	7
Albania	8	1	0	7	5	14	3

The nine group winners qualified automatically for the finals. The nine group runners-up and the third-placed Asian team, Iran, entered the five head-to-head play-off ties.

EUROPEAN AND EURO/ASIAN PLAY-OFFS

1st legs

10.11.01 .....Slovenia-Romania ...2-1
10.11.01 .....Ukraine-Germany ...1-1
10.11.01 .....Belgium-Czech Republic ...1-0
10.11.01 .....Austria-Turkey ...0-1
10.11.01 .....Rep of Ireland-Iran ...2-0

2nd legs

14.11.01 .....Romania-Slovenia ...1-1
.....*Slovenia 3-2 on agg*
14.11.01 .....Germany-Ukraine ...4-1
.....*Germany 5-2 on agg*
14.11.01 .....Czech Republic-Belgium ...0-1
.....*Belgium 2-0 on agg*
14.11.01 .....Turkey-Austria ...5-0
.....*Turkey 6-0 on agg*
15.11.01 .....Iran-Rep of Ireland ...1-0
.....*Rep of Ireland 2-1 on agg*

The five match winners qualified for the finals.

THE FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

3 teams to qualify

PRELIMINARY PHASE

Central American Zone Group A

Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala

05.03.00 .....El Salvador-Belize ...5-0
19.03.00 .....*Belize-Guatemala ...1-2
02.04.00 .....Guatemala-El Salvador ...0-1
16.04.00 .....Belize-El Salvador ...1-3
07.05.00 .....El Salvador-Guatemala ...1-1
20.05.00 .....**Guatemala-Belize ...0-0
**In Panama City*
***In Tegucigalpa, Honduras*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
El Salvador	4	3	1	0	10	2	10
Guatemala	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
Belize	4	0	1	3	2	10	1

Central American Zone Group B

Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

04.03.00 .....Honduras-Nicaragua ...3-0
19.03.00 .....Nicaragua-Panama ...0-2
02.04.00 .....Panama-Honduras ...1-0
16.04.00 .....Nicaragua-Honduras ...0-1
07.05.00 .....Honduras-Panama ...3-1
21.05.00 .....Panama-Nicaragua ...4-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panama	4	3	0	1	8	3	9
Honduras	4	3	0	1	7	2	9
Nicaragua	4	0	0	4	0	10	0

Group winners qualified for the overall confederation Semi-Final round. Group A runners-up played off against Caribbean Zone Group 2 runners-up for a Semi-Final round place; Group B runners-up played off against Caribbean Zone Group 3 runners-up for a Semi-Final round place.

Caribbean Zone first round

Group 1

05.03.00 .....Cuba-Cayman Islands ...4-0
19.03.00 .....Cayman Islands-Cuba ...0-0
.....*Cuba 4-0 on agg*
05.03.00 .....St Lucia-Surinam ...1-0
19.03.00 .....Surinam-St Lucia ...(aet) 1-0
.....*Agg 1-1. Surinam 3-1 on pens*
05.03.00 .....Barbados-Grenada ...2-2
18.03.00 .....Grenada-Barbados ...2-3
.....*Barbados 5-4 on agg*
11.03.00 .....Aruba-Puerto Rico ...4-2
18.03.00 .....Puerto Rico-Aruba ...2-2
.....*Aruba 6-4 on agg*

Group 2

05.03.00 .....St Vincent-US Virgin Islands ...9-0
19.03.00 .....US Virgin Islands-St Vincent ...1-5
.....*St Vincent 14-1 on agg*
05.03.00 .....British Virgin Is-Bermuda ...1-5
19.03.00 .....Bermuda-British Virgin Is ...9-0
.....*Bermuda 14-1 on agg*
18.03.00 .....St Kitts-Turks & Caicos Is ...8-0
21.03.00 .....Turks & Caicos Is-St Kitts* ...0-6
.....*St Kitts 14-0 on agg*
Guyana v Antigua & Barbuda – Guyana suspended by FIFA; Antigua & Barbuda went through to second round.
**2nd leg also played in St Kitts*

Group 3

04.03.00 .....Trinidad & Tob-Dutch Antilles ...5-0
18.03.00 .....Dutch Antilles-Trinidad & Tob ...1-1
.....*Trinidad & Tobago 6-1 on agg*
05.03.00 .....Anguilla-Bahamas ...1-3
19.03.00 .....Bahamas-Anguilla ...2-1
.....*Bahamas 5-2 on agg*
05.03.00 .....Dominican Rep-Montserrat ...3-0
19.03.00 .....Montserrat-Dominican Rep ...1-3
.....*Dominican Republic 6-1 on agg*
11.03.00 .....Haiti-Dominica ...4-0
19.03.00 .....Dominica-Haiti ...1-3
.....*Haiti 7-1 on agg*

Caribbean Zone second round

Group 1

01.04.00 .....Aruba-Barbados ...1-3
16.04.00 .....Barbados-Aruba ...4-0
.....*Barbados 7-1 on agg*
02.04.00 .....Cuba-Surinam ...1-0
16.04.00 .....Surinam-Cuba ...0-0
.....*Cuba 1-0 on agg*

Group 2

16.04.00 .....Antigua & Barbuda-Bermuda ...0-0
23.04.00 .....Bermuda-Antigua & Barbuda ...1-1
.....*Agg 1-1. Antigua & Barbuda on away gls*
16.04.00 .....St Vincent-St Kitts ...1-0
23.04.00 .....St Kitts-St Vincent ...1-2
.....*St Vincent 3-1 on agg*

Group 3

01.04.00 .....Haiti-Bahamas ...9-0
16.04.00 .....Bahamas-Haiti ...0-4
.....*Haiti 13-0 on agg*
02.04.00 .....Trinidad & Tob-Dominican Rep ...3-0
16.04.00 .....Dominican Rep-Trinidad & Tob ...0-1
.....*Trinidad & Tobago 4-0 on agg*

2002 WORLD CUP

Caribbean Zone finals

Group 1

07.05.00.....Cuba-Barbados.....1-1
21.05.00.....Barbados-Cuba.....1-1
.....*Agg 2-2. Barbados 5-4 on pens*

Group 2

07.05.00.....Antigua & Barbuda-St Vincent.....2-1
21.05.00.....St Vincent-Antigua & Barbuda.....4-0
.....*St Vincent 5-2 on agg*

Group 3

07.05.00.....Trinidad & Tobago-Haiti.....3-1
20.05.00.....Haiti-Trinidad & Tobago.....1-1
.....*Trinidad & Tobago 4-2 on agg*

The three finals winners qualified for the overall confederation Semi-Final round.
Group 1 runners-up played off against Canada for a Semi-Final round place; Group 2 runners-up played off against Central American Zone Group A runners-up for a Semi-Final round place; Group 3 runners-up played off against Central American Zone Group B runners-up for a Semi-Final round place.

INTER-ZONE PLAY-OFFS

04.06.00.....Cuba-Canada.....0-1
11.06.00.....Canada-Cuba.....0-0
.....*Canada 1-0 on agg*

11.06.00.....Antigua & Barbuda-Guatemala.....0-1
18.06.00.....Guatemala-Antigua & Barbuda.....8-1
.....*Guatemala 9-1 on agg*

03.06.00.....Honduras-Haiti.....4-0
17.06.00.....Haiti-Honduras.....1-3
.....*Honduras 7-1 on agg*

SEMI-FINAL ROUND

Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico and the United States qualified directly for the Semi-Final round.

Group C

Canada, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago

16.07.00.....Canada-Trinidad & Tobago.....0-2
16.07.00.....Panama-Mexico.....0-1
23.07.00.....Panama-Canada.....0-0
23.07.00.....Trinidad & Tobago-Mexico.....1-0
15.08.00.....Mexico-Canada.....2-0
16.08.00.....Trinidad & Tobago-Panama.....6-0
03.09.00.....Mexico-Panama.....7-1
03.09.00.....Trinidad & Tobago-Canada.....4-0
08.10.00.....Mexico-Trinidad & Tobago.....7-0
09.10.00.....Canada-Panama.....1-0
15.11.00.....Canada-Mexico.....0-0
15.11.00.....Panama-Trinidad & Tobago*.....0-1
**Tie played in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trinidad & Tob	6	5	0	1	14	7	15
Mexico	6	4	1	1	17	2	13
Canada	6	1	2	3	1	8	5
Panama	6	0	1	5	1	16	1

Group D

El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, St Vincent & The Grenadines

16.07.00.....El Salvador-Honduras.....2-5
16.07.00.....St Vincent-Jamaica.....0-1
23.07.00.....El Salvador-St Vincent.....7-1
23.07.00.....Jamaica-Honduras.....3-1
16.08.00.....Honduras-St Vincent.....6-0
16.08.00.....Jamaica-El Salvador.....1-0
02.09.00.....Honduras-El Salvador.....5-0
03.09.00.....Jamaica-St Vincent.....2-0
08.10.00.....Honduras-Jamaica.....1-0
08.10.00.....St Vincent-El Salvador.....1-2
14.11.00.....St Vincent-Honduras.....0-7
15.11.00.....El Salvador-Jamaica.....2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Honduras	6	5	0	1	25	5	15
Jamaica	6	4	0	2	7	4	12
El Salvador	6	3	0	3	13	13	9
St Vincent	6	0	0	6	2	25	0

Group E

Barbados, Costa Rica, Guatemala, United States

16.07.00.....Barbados-Costa Rica.....2-1
16.07.00.....Guatemala-United States.....1-1
22.07.00.....Guatemala-Barbados.....2-0
23.07.00.....Costa Rica-United States.....2-1
15.08.00.....Costa Rica-Guatemala.....2-1
16.08.00.....United States-Barbados.....7-0
03.09.00.....Costa Rica-Barbados.....3-0
03.09.00.....United States-Guatemala.....1-0
08.10.00.....Barbados-Guatemala.....1-3
11.10.00.....United States-Costa Rica.....0-0
15.11.00.....Barbados-United States.....0-4
15.11.00.....Guatemala-Costa Rica.....2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
United States	6	3	2	1	14	3	11
Costa Rica**	6	3	1	2	9	6	10
Guatemala**	6	3	1	2	9	6	10
Barbados	6	1	0	5	3	20	3

The top two from each group qualified for the Final round group of six.

***Play-off required because head-to-head and overall group records were identical.*

SEMI-FINAL ROUND PLAY-OFF

06.01.01.....Costa Rica-Guatemala.....5-2
Tie played in Miami

FINAL ROUND

Costa Rica, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Trinidad & Tobago, United States

28.02.01.....Costa Rica-Honduras.....2-2
28.02.01.....Jamaica-Trinidad & Tobago.....1-0
28.02.01.....United States-Mexico.....2-0
25.03.01.....Mexico-Jamaica.....4-0
28.03.01.....Costa Rica-Trinidad & Tobago.....3-0
28.03.01.....Honduras-United States.....1-2
25.04.01.....Jamaica-Honduras.....1-1
25.04.01.....Trinidad & Tobago-Mexico.....1-1
25.04.01.....United States-Costa Rica.....1-0
16.06.01.....Jamaica-United States.....0-0
16.06.01.....Mexico-Costa Rica.....1-2
16.06.01.....Trinidad & Tobago-Honduras.....2-4
20.06.01.....Costa Rica-Jamaica.....2-1
20.06.01.....Honduras-Mexico.....3-1
20.06.01.....United States-Trinidad & Tobago.....2-0
30.06.01.....Trinidad & Tobago-Jamaica.....1-2
01.07.01.....Honduras-Costa Rica.....2-3
01.07.01.....Mexico-United States.....1-0
01.09.01.....Trinidad & Tobago-Costa Rica.....0-2
01.09.01.....United States-Honduras.....2-3
02.09.01.....Jamaica-Mexico.....1-2
05.09.01.....Costa Rica-United States.....2-0
05.09.01.....Honduras-Jamaica.....1-0
05.09.01.....Mexico-Trinidad & Tobago.....3-0
07.10.01.....Costa Rica-Mexico.....0-0
07.10.01.....Honduras-Trinidad & Tobago.....0-1
07.10.01.....United States-Jamaica.....2-1
11.11.01.....Jamaica-Costa Rica.....0-1
11.11.01.....Mexico-Honduras.....3-0
11.11.01.....Trinidad & Tobago-United States.....0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Costa Rica	10	7	2	1	17	7	23
Mexico	10	5	2	3	16	9	17
United States	10	5	2	3	11	8	17
Honduras	10	4	2	4	17	17	14
Jamaica	10	2	2	6	7	14	8
Trinidad & Tob	10	1	2	7	5	18	5

The top three qualified for the finals.

OCEANIA

0 or 1 team(s) to qualify

FIRST ROUND

Group 1

American Samoa, Australia, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga

07.04.01.....Samoa-Tonga.....0-1
07.04.01.....Fiji-American Samoa.....13-0
09.04.01.....Tonga-Australia.....0-22
09.04.01.....American Samoa-Samoa.....0-8
11.04.01.....Samoa-Fiji.....1-6
11.04.01.....Australia-American Samoa.....31-0
14.04.01.....Fiji-Australia.....0-2
14.04.01.....American Samoa-Tonga.....0-5
16.04.01.....Australia-Samoa.....11-0
16.04.01.....Tonga-Fiji.....1-8
All ties played in Coffs Harbour, Australia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	4	4	0	0	66	0	12
Fiji	4	3	0	1	27	4	9
Tonga	4	2	0	2	7	30	6
Samoa	4	1	0	3	9	18	3
American Samoa	4	0	0	4	0	57	0

Group 2

Cook Islands, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Vanuatu

04.06.01.....Vanuatu-Tahiti.....1-6
04.06.01.....Solomon Islands-Cook Islands.....9-1
06.06.01.....Tahiti-New Zealand.....0-5
06.06.01.....Cook Islands-Vanuatu.....1-8
08.06.01.....Vanuatu-Solomon Islands.....2-7
08.06.01.....New Zealand-Cook Islands.....2-0
11.06.01.....Solomon Islands-New Zealand.....1-5
11.06.01.....Cook Islands-Tahiti.....0-6
13.06.01.....New Zealand-Vanuatu.....7-0
13.06.01.....Tahiti-Solomon Islands.....2-0
All ties played in Auckland, New Zealand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Zealand	4	4	0	0	19	1	12
Tahiti	4	3	0	1	14	6	9
Solomon Islands	4	2	0	2	17	10	6
Vanuatu	4	1	0	3	11	21	3
Cook Islands	4	0	0	4	2	25	0

The group winners qualified for the Oceania play-off.

OCEANIA PLAY-OFF

20.06.01.....New Zealand-Australia.....0-2
24.06.01.....Australia-New Zealand.....4-1
.....*Australia 6-1 on agg*

Australia entered play-off against Uruguay, the fifth-placed South American team, for a place in the finals.

SOUTH AMERICAN/OCEANIA PLAY-OFF

20.11.01.....Australia-Uruguay.....1-0
25.11.01.....Uruguay-Australia.....3-0
.....*Uruguay 3-1 on agg*

Uruguay qualified for the finals.

SOUTH AMERICA

4 or 5 teams to qualify

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela

28.03.00.....Colombia-Brazil.....0-0
29.03.00.....Argentina-Chile.....4-1
29.03.00.....Ecuador-Venezuela.....2-0
29.03.00.....Peru-Paraguay.....2-0
29.03.00.....Uruguay-Bolivia.....1-0
26.04.00.....Bolivia-Colombia.....1-1
26.04.00.....Brazil-Ecuador.....3-2
26.04.00.....Chile-Peru.....1-1
26.04.00.....Paraguay-Uruguay.....1-0
26.04.00.....Venezuela-Argentina.....0-4
03.06.00.....Paraguay-Ecuador.....3-1
03.06.00.....Uruguay-Chile.....2-1
04.06.00.....Argentina-Bolivia.....1-0
04.06.00.....Colombia-Venezuela.....3-0
04.06.00.....Peru-Brazil.....0-1
28.06.00.....Brazil-Uruguay.....1-1
28.06.00.....Venezuela-Bolivia.....4-2
29.06.00.....Chile-Paraguay.....3-1
29.06.00.....Colombia-Argentina.....1-3
29.06.00.....Ecuador-Peru.....2-1
18.07.00.....Paraguay-Brazil.....2-1
18.07.00.....Uruguay-Venezuela.....3-1
19.07.00.....Argentina-Ecuador.....2-0
19.07.00.....Bolivia-Chile.....1-0
19.07.00.....Peru-Colombia.....0-1
25.07.00.....Ecuador-Colombia.....0-0
25.07.00.....Venezuela-Chile.....0-2
26.07.00.....Brazil-Argentina.....3-1
26.07.00.....Uruguay-Peru.....0-0
27.07.00.....Bolivia-Paraguay.....0-0
15.08.00.....Chile-Brazil.....3-0
15.08.00.....Colombia-Uruguay.....1-0
16.08.00.....Argentina-Paraguay.....1-1
16.08.00.....Ecuador-Bolivia.....2-0
16.08.00.....Peru-Venezuela.....1-0
02.09.00.....Chile-Colombia.....0-1
02.09.00.....Paraguay-Venezuela.....3-0
03.09.00.....Brazil-Bolivia.....5-0
03.09.00.....Peru-Argentina.....1-2
03.09.00.....Uruguay-Ecuador.....4-0
07.10.00.....Colombia-Paraguay.....0-2
08.10.00.....Argentina-Uruguay.....2-1
08.10.00.....Bolivia-Peru.....1-0
08.10.00.....Ecuador-Chile.....1-0
08.10.00.....Venezuela-Brazil.....0-6
15.11.00.....Bolivia-Uruguay.....0-0
15.11.00.....Brazil-Colombia.....1-0
15.11.00.....Chile-Argentina.....0-2
15.11.00.....Paraguay-Peru.....5-1
15.11.00.....Venezuela-Ecuador.....1-2
27.03.01.....Colombia-Bolivia.....2-0
27.03.01.....Peru-Chile.....3-1
28.03.01.....Argentina-Venezuela.....5-0
28.03.01.....Ecuador-Brazil.....1-0
28.03.01.....Uruguay-Paraguay.....0-1
24.04.01.....Chile-Uruguay.....0-1
24.04.01.....Ecuador-Paraguay.....2-1
24.04.01.....Venezuela-Colombia.....2-2
25.04.01.....Bolivia-Argentina.....3-3
25.04.01.....Brazil-Peru.....1-1
02.06.01.....Paraguay-Chile.....1-0
02.06.01.....Peru-Ecuador.....1-2
03.06.01.....Argentina-Colombia.....3-0
03.06.01.....Bolivia-Venezuela.....5-0
01.07.01.....Uruguay-Brazil.....1-0
14.08.01.....Chile-Bolivia.....2-2
14.08.01.....Venezuela-Uruguay.....2-0
15.08.01.....Brazil-Paraguay.....2-0
15.08.01.....Ecuador-Argentina.....0-2
16.08.01.....Colombia-Peru.....0-1
04.09.01.....Chile-Venezuela.....0-2
04.09.01.....Peru-Uruguay.....0-2
05.09.01.....Argentina-Brazil.....2-1
05.09.01.....Colombia-Ecuador.....0-0
05.09.01.....Paraguay-Bolivia.....5-1
06.10.01.....Bolivia-Ecuador.....1-5
06.10.01.....Venezuela-Peru.....3-0
07.10.01.....Brazil-Chile.....2-0
07.10.01.....Paraguay-Argentina.....2-2
07.10.01.....Uruguay-Colombia.....1-1
07.11.01.....Bolivia-Brazil.....3-1
07.11.01.....Colombia-Chile.....3-1
07.11.01.....Ecuador-Uruguay.....1-1
08.11.01.....Argentina-Peru.....2-0
08.11.01.....Venezuela-Paraguay.....3-1
14.11.01.....Brazil-Venezuela.....3-0
14.11.01.....Chile-Ecuador.....0-0
14.11.01.....Paraguay-Colombia.....0-4
14.11.01.....Peru-Bolivia.....1-1
14.11.01.....Uruguay-Argentina.....1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	18	13	4	1	42	15	43
Ecuador	18	9	4	5	23	20	31
Brazil	18	9	3	6	31	17	30
Paraguay	18	9	3	6	29	23	30
Uruguay	18	7	6	5	19	13	27
Colombia	18	7	6	5	20	15	27
Bolivia	18	4	6	8	21	33	18
Peru	18	4	4	10	14	25	16
Venezuela	18	5	1	12	18	44	16
Chile	18	3	3	12	15	27	12

The top four qualified automatically for the finals. Uruguay entered play-off against Australia, the Oceania section winners, for a place in the finals.

SOUTH AMERICAN/OCEANIA PLAY-OFF

20.11.01.....Australia-Uruguay.....1-0
25.11.01.....Uruguay-Australia.....3-0
.....*Uruguay 3-1 on agg*

Uruguay qualified for the finals.

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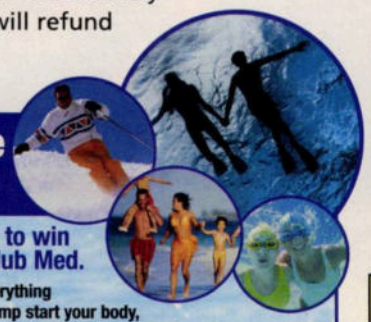

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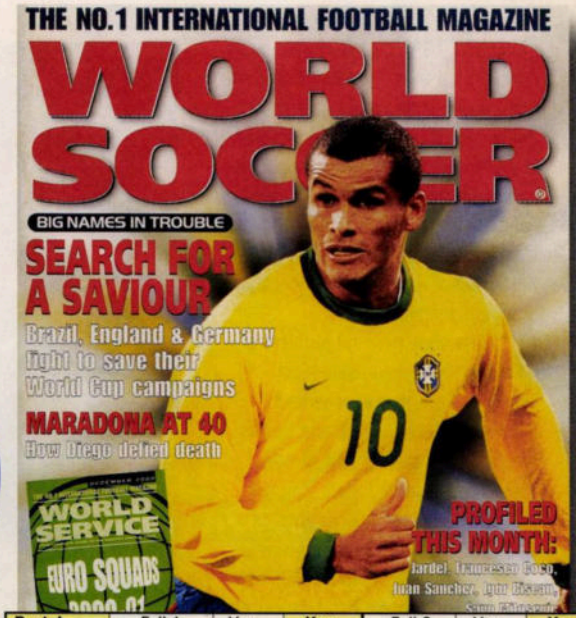

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Guardiola tests fuel conspiracy theories

Paddy Agnew on the latest drugs scandal to rock Italian football

"I BELIEVE THAT the players are all in good faith, I cannot believe that they want to risk their whole careers by doing something stupid. The problem is that from all the [nandrolone] cases so far, no clear picture has emerged. For example, it seems amazing that all these cases have happened only in Italy and not in any of the other major European leagues.

"I just hope that the problem is linked to the testing itself. I just cannot believe that experienced players like Stam, Couto and Davids would take prohibited substances. They just don't need them. You risk ruining your career for nothing."

The speaker is Italy and Juventus defender Gianluca Pessotto, team-mate of Dutchman Edgar Davids, one of the high-profile victims of the nandrolone scandal that has plagued Italian soccer over the past year. Pessotto made the above observations to *World Soccer* on the late November day that the nandrolone 'epidemic' struck yet another high-profile victim, namely Catalan idol and ex-Barcelona player Pep Guardiola, currently with Brescia.

Coming less than a month after news that Dutch international and ex-Manchester United defender Jaap Stam had also tested positive for nandrolone, the 'caso Guardiola' threw further high octane fuel on the fiery furnace of the dope debate.

"What are you all talking about doping for? I'm clean," protested an angry Guardiola at a dramatic news conference on the day after his positive test was confirmed, adding: "Perhaps the test was mistaken, perhaps something else went wrong, I don't know. Why would players like Stam and myself use doping substances at 30 years of age? To run a bit faster? To score the odd extra goal? Come off it."

Cynics will argue that scoring the "odd extra goal" and running that "bit faster" provide a perfect reason to take an anabolic steroid like nandrolone, which, among other things, increases an athlete's stamina and endurance both for training and performance purposes, while at the same time heightening aggression and raw power.

Despite his angry protestations of innocence, Guardiola's case was further complicated a week later when it was revealed that he had tested positive for nandrolone a second time. His first test related to Piacenza v Brescia on October 20, while the second came after Lazio v Brescia on November 4.

Dope controversy...Guardiola (left) tested positive after Brescia's game v Piacenza

To those who, like Guardiola, ask why players would start turning to dope late in their careers, there is an even more cynical answer. Perhaps they have been using dope all along and have been caught only after arriving in Italy, a country that boasts probably the most comprehensive dope-testing programme in world football. Remember, two players per team are routinely tested at every Serie A and Serie B game.

Certainly, it was intriguing to hear non-Italian reaction to Guardiola's positive test results. In Spain, national team coach Jose Antonio Camacho called it "absurd", while Barcelona president Joan Gaspart said: "You only have to have seen him play on TV to understand that it is ridiculous to even think of nandrolone. We're not talking about a big, tall central defender or a guy who ran around a lot. Guardiola has always been a frail, slender guy who used his brain."

Equally intriguing was a comment made to the *Daily Telegraph* by Middlesbrough's Italian defender, Gianluca Festa, who pointed out that in five years in English soccer, he had been dope-tested only twice – or just as often as Guardiola in his first six weeks in Italian soccer.

Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti, whose Portuguese international Fernando Couto was another to test positive for nandrolone last season, also expressed doubts about different standards in different countries. "Italy has the tightest anti-doping parameters in Europe," he said. "There are players who have played in England, Spain, Germany and in Italy, and yet the only cases have been here in Italy."

Cragnotti went on to wonder how it was that no Italy-based players had tested positive during Champions League and UEFA Cup tests in the past 18 months.

As Italian soccer examines its pharmaceutical navel, various theories continue to do the rounds as to why 11 Serie A and Serie B players have been caught in the past year. For the record, the players involved are, in chronological order, Andrea Da Rold (Pescara), Christian Bucchi (Perugia), Salvatore Monaco (Perugia), Nicola Caccia (Piacenza), Stefano Sacchetti (Piacenza), Fernando Couto (Lazio), Jean-Francois Gillet (Bari), Stefano Torrisi (Parma) Edgar Davids (Juventus), Jaap Stam (Lazio) and Pep Guardiola (Brescia).

Yet again, we have heard a lot about contaminated 'integrators' or 'restoratives'. There has been a lot of talk about players' 'do-it-yourself' medical 'assistance', beyond the control of their club doctors.

There has even been much talk of the so-called Barcelona connection, based on the fact that three past or present Barcelona players – Dutchman Frank De Boer, Guardiola and Couto – have all tested positive in the past year. From Barcelona, the theory goes, the doping practice was easily switched to the Dutch national team camp – remember, Barcelona have had a large number of Dutch players and a Dutch coach (Louis Van Gaal) in recent years.

The theory then suggests that Serie A players such as Stam and Davids picked up the nandrolone bug in the Dutch camp. But even if it were true, it would not explain why the other Italy-based players tested positive.

Attention was also focused on Barcelona-based specialist Dr Ramon Segura, the man who for the past six

years has prescribed a special 'vitamin cocktail' for Guardiola and others.

"There's nothing secret about my recipe," Segura told *La Repubblica*, adding: "All the things in it are natural products – carbohydrates, sugars, vitamins, proteins and mineral salts, with a little fish oil additive."

In the end, it seems there can be only two logical explanations for the Italian nandrolone epidemic. Firstly, and this is what football authorities everywhere would like to think, it could be that the recently revamped Italian testing system is over-zealous. Or it could be – and no one likes the implications of this – that the other countries are lax in their testing and that, in fact, footballers everywhere (or at least some of them) are taking banned substances. For the time being, the jury is out on this one.

As for football on the Italian playing field, it has been another month of hubble, bubble and trouble as some of the bigger names continue to struggle. We mentioned last month that Parma were about to land themselves a new coach, in the wake of the dismissal of Renzo Ulivieri.

'There are players who have played in England, Spain, Germany and in Italy, yet the only cases have been here in Italy' – *Sergio Cragnotti*

At the time, we thought the most obvious candidate would be former Juventus and Parma coach Carlo Ancelotti, in preference to Argentinian Daniel Passarella.

That, too, was what the Tanzi family in Parma thought. But just when the Parma owners had finally settled all the details of Ancelotti's return, up stepped little Torino to inadvertently change all plans.

Torino's 1-0 defeat of Milan represented just the excuse the San Siro club's management needed to offload their fiery, outspoken and talented Turkish coach Fatih Terim.

Towards the end of last season, when it seemed certain that Roma would win the title, Milan had tried to employ Ancelotti, convinced as they were that Juventus would sack him to make way for Marcello Lippi.

To Milan's surprise, however, Juventus said that Ancelotti would be staying with them. In the meantime, though, results changed all plans and Juve, convinced by their team's excellent late-season form that Ancelotti had mistimed his championship challenge, opted to sack him after all.

By then, however, Milan had already engaged Terim. When they realised they might have their former star player as coach after all, certain influential parties within the club clearly just could not wait for Terim to trip up.

The defeat against Torino was just the excuse they needed. At half past 10 on the evening of that match, Carlo Ancelotti received a call from Milan asking him if he was available. "Errh, hhmm," answered Ancelotti, who just two days before had agreed a deal with Parma and Parmalat supremo, Calisto Tanzi.

In the end, Ancelotti backed out of the Parma job and moved into the Milan job, all in the space of a few hours. His change of mind about Parma brought former Argentina, Uruguay and River Plate coach Passarella back into the picture.

Given subsequent results, it is easy to see why Ancelotti opted for Milan and not Parma. Under Passarella, Parma picked up three straight Serie A losses, while in the same period Milan picked up two wins and a draw. Furthermore, both Milan wins were highly significant since the first one, ironically, came against Parma (1-0) and the second against Chievo (3-2).

This latter result meant little Chievo were finally knocked off the top of the table, giving way to Inter. Furthermore, that San Siro loss to Milan marked the start of a difficult December when the Verona side were also scheduled to meet both Inter and Roma. Could this be the end of the 'Chievo fairytale'?

For an answer to that question and for further analysis of Roma, Juventus and Lazio – all seemingly revived, in their different ways – watch this space next month.

Pro-file Christian Manfredini

Chievo's honest winger looking set for Italy debut soon

DURING the first week of November, Chievo's Christian Manfredini kept a close eye on the club's fax machine. Media speculation had suggested that the 26-year-old Ivory Coast-born player might be in line for a call-up from Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni for the prestige friendly against Japan.

Such has been Manfredini's impressive contribution to the Chievo success story that such speculation did not seem out of place.

In time, a national team call-up did arrive. Except that the man who signed it was Ivory Coast national team coach, Lama Bamba.

"I saw the fax from Lama Bamba and my reply was to say thanks but no thank you. In theory, since I've never played for Italy, I could have accepted the offer, but I don't think that would have been the right thing to do. I don't remember any of my time in Africa and I feel 100 per cent Italian," said Manfredini.

Ivory Coast's loss could yet be Italy's gain. Adopted by an Italian family at the age of just five, Manfredini, whose African name is 'Sisostre', actually visited his native home of Port Bouet for the first time since adoption last year. Even though he reportedly "fell in love" with the Ivory Coast on that visit, he quite clearly believes his football future lies in Italy. He could be right.

His performances this autumn have made him much sought-after, at a price likely to be around £5million. Like Chievo themselves, Manfredini has already done enough to prove that he is much more than just an overnight sensation, and one suspects that between now and next August, Roma and other big names will be fighting hard to secure his services.

Whoever lands Manfredini will be buying a talented, pacy, wide player of the sort that once upon a time we called a winger. Beautifully balanced, with good close control, Manfredini is essentially left-footed but has no difficulty swapping wings with Brazilian team-mate Eriberto and moving over to play on the right.

Even though he was originally a Juventus player – he never actually played for the Old Lady – Manfredini, like nearly all his Chievo team-mates, is a Serie A debutant this season. Like his club, too, he has worked his way up through the ranks and leagues.

Whoever buys Manfredini will also inherit a player in line for a Fair Play award. After Chievo had beaten Perugia 2-0 to stay top of the table, Manfredini surprised everyone when saying on TV that Perugia's Salvatore Monaco had been unfairly sent off and that Chievo's penalty had been wrongly awarded.

Honest, talented, hard-running and hard-working, and with a personal history that reflects much about the changing, ever more multi-ethnic face of modern Italy, Manfredini is surely a player with a very bright future.

Paddy Agnew

Fact file

Club Chievo
Country Italy
Born May 1, 1975, in Port Bouet, Ivory Coast
Previous clubs Genoa, Cosenza, Fermana, Avezzano, Viterbese, Pistoiese

Wide open

There's everything still to play for in this season's Liga campaign, says Jeff King

Breaking away...Alaves' Ruben Navarro evades Barcelona's Patrik Andersson during the 2-0 win that put the Basques top

WITH JUST four games to play before the season's halfway point, only six points separated surprise leaders Alaves from Sevilla back in 10th place.

The fact that an identical number of points separated Sevilla from 18th-placed Osasuna in the relegation frame is evidence of a well-balanced competition. Early pacesetters Deportivo, Valencia and Barcelona definitely seem intent on proving there are no easy games in Spain.

Alaves' key quartet last season were Javi Moreno, Cosmin Contra, Ivan Tomic and Hermes Desio. When the first three moved to Italy and Argentinian Desio suffered a long-term injury it seemed the UEFA Cup finalists were destined to recover more modest ways, especially when little of the £13million windfall for Moreno and Contra was invested in replacements.

But the Basques' success has little to do with money. Record signing Ruben Navarro cost a modest £1.5m from Valencia. Fellow striker Bogdan Mara was an £800,000 acquisition from Dinamo Bucharest. Fabricio Coloccini (Milan) (see profile opposite), Carlos Llorens (Atletico Madrid), Richard Witschge and Christopher Kanu (both Ajax) arrived on loan, while Jesus Turiel was out of contract at Valladolid.

Coach Mane's well-drilled side have found goals harder to come by without Moreno, but have compensated by tightening things up at the back, where Coloccini and Llorens have slotted in perfectly alongside Oscar Tellez and Delfi Geli. The fact that the Argentinian teenager and the veteran left-back scored nine of Alaves' first 17 goals between them, as well, was a bonus, albeit a slightly embarrassing one for their team-mates in attack.

Turiel, too, has settled in a midfield that sweats blood to frustrate the opposition. "Our style chokes a lot of rivals," said Mane after his side outhustled Barcelona for the 2-0 win that took them to the top. "Can we win the League? Other teams have far superior potential, but the fact that the League is so even does give modest clubs an outside chance."

Mane's decision to turn down a lucrative offer from Valencia in June suggests that he, for one, fancied Alaves' chances of upsetting the odds.

The Basques went top for the first time in 71 years after Deportivo's 1-0 reverse at Espanyol, their fourth consecutive away defeat. Depor continue to punch above their weight in the Champions League but back home they're fast becoming La Liga's Mother Teresa, guardian of football's lost causes. Espanyol coach Paco Flores went into the Deportivo game with a 'win or be sacked' ultimatum. Before their defeat in Barcelona, Depor lost at Mallorca (third from bottom at the time), Rayo Vallecano (bottom) and Tenerife (bottom)!

"We've always struggled to win away," admits coach Javier Irureta, "even the year we won the League." Irureta will certainly be keen to restore tightfisted habits at the back – 21 goals conceded in 15 games is Depor's worst defensive record out of the blocks since their top-flight return in 1991.

Barcelona have also wavered on the domestic front. Six wins in seven Champions League games may have re-established their credentials as European contenders, but the same number of wins in 16 La Liga games is hardly intimidating form.

"We needed a victory of this kind on this prestigious stage," said coach Carles Rexach after his team's 3-1 win at Liverpool. "This result will give the players wings, not just because we won, but because of the way we did."

Four days later Barça's wings were clipped in a 2-1 home defeat by Athletic Bilbao. A week later Rexach's men didn't manage a shot until the 75th minute of the 2-0 defeat at Alaves. The victory at Anfield was one of just two in seven games in November. How a side with Rivaldo, Kluivert *et al* can manage 373 minutes without an away goal in domestic competition is a mystery.

Valencia are another big gun firing blanks. The *Ches* didn't lose until their 14th game, but Spain's last unbeaten record was a flattering one. The 2-0 defeat at Real Sociedad was Valencia's third consecutive blank against modest opposition. A modest 15 goals in 15 games is the reason Rafa Benitez's side have drawn nine times. The fact that Kily Gonzalez, Miguel Angel Angulo, Andres Palop and Salva have all gone public with respective gripes suggests the coach is struggling to impose his authority.

Like Alaves, newly-promoted Betis continue to confound expectations, albeit in more idiosyncratic fashion. After a 1-0 home defeat by Zaragoza, Seville's men in green were booed off the park and Brazilian star Denilson was jostled by salivating protesters. The bad blood had less to do with one lacklustre home display than the fact that the Betis players en masse had broken a club curfew four days earlier.

More than a dozen players were still present and correct in fancy dress when president Manuel Ruiz de Lopera and coach Juande Ramos arrived at

4am to break up a Hallowe'en party at midfielder Benjamin's house. In the ensuing days, there was much talk of reprisals, not least from the players' wives and girlfriends, none of whom were among the female guests at the soiree. Lopera, however, was swiftly appeased by a hard-fought draw at city rivals Sevilla and wins against Rayo, Osasuna and Tenerife. That run left Betis level on points with Alaves in second place and the scary movie forgotten.

Ramos may have been a reluctant participant in Lopera's game of Trick or Treat, but clearly the former Rayo coach likes to keep his players on their toes. Not until the 14th game of the season did he repeat a starting XI. Of the 26 players already used, Spain Under-21 winger Joaquin and Denilson represent Spain's best one-two punch from out wide. Sadly, Gaston Casas' long-term injury leaves Betis without the cutting edge needed to sustain a challenge.

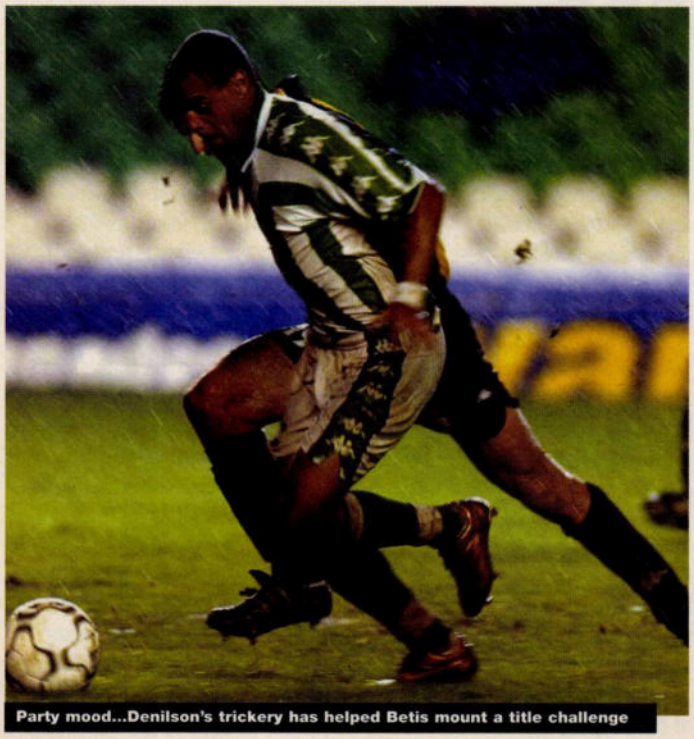
What Ramos would give for a target man like Ismael Urzaiz. Athletic Bilbao's in-form striker is La Liga's top scorer with eight goals in 15 games and clearly intends to fight Diego Tristan and Fernando Morientes all the way for a World Cup place alongside Raul. Athletic's 2-1 win at Camp Nou confirmed their status as Spain's most dangerous visitors. Five wins and a draw in seven away games is the main reason Jupp Heynckes' team are fourth, a point behind fellow Basques Alaves.

The long-term beneficiary of Depor, Barça and Valencia's autumnal funk is likely to be a fellow heavyweight. Real Madrid's worst start since 1942 gave Depor a 10-point head start after just nine games. Five wins in six games later they had leapfrogged from 15th to third and were just a point behind Depor and two behind Alaves.

What a difference a month makes.

Zinedine Zidane is beginning to enjoy himself and teenage centre-back Francisco Pavon has slotted in well alongside Fernando Hierro. Crucially, both midfield hustler Ivan Helguera and Morientes are fit again and firing on all cylinders. Morientes' first goal in eight months, against Barça, kick-started a confidence-boosting eight goals in six games month for the striker.

"Given the amount of games it's not easy to stick to a first-choice XI," says coach Vicente Del Bosque, "but it's no secret teams need a stable backbone. We've got that now."



Party mood...Denilson's trickery has helped Betis mount a title challenge

Pro-file Fabricio Coloccini

Argentinian youngster who Milan could lose to Spain

FOR THE second year running, a Spanish club have been the grateful beneficiaries of Milan's dubious judgment of centre-halves. Roberto Ayala joined Valencia last autumn for just £4million after being deemed surplus to requirements at San Siro. Argentina's skipper crowned his debut season at Mestalla with UEFA recognition as the Champions League's best defender.

Fabricio Coloccini needed barely two months at Alaves to confirm Milan's indecent haste in discarding Argentinian defenders. The teenager's splendid form out of the gate was one of the main reasons the Basque team were top of the table at the start of December.

Coloccini admits that a video of his sole outing for Boca Juniors as a 17-year-old convinced Milan to sign him in 1999. A year and no first-team appearances later he was farmed out on loan to modest Argentinian outfit San Lorenzo. Neither his contribution to their title-winning campaign or his subsequent role as captain of Argentina's World Youth Cup champions were enough to convince Milan to take another look.

Alaves took advantage of a relationship with Milan – borne of Javi Moreno and Cosmin Contra's moves in the other direction – to secure Coloccini's services on loan. Unfortunately for the Italians, they allowed the Basques to insert a clause in Coloccini's contract which means they might never get him back. Alaves can make the deal permanent by paying Milan £8.5m before April 30 next year. The fee is beyond Alaves' reach but word is Real Madrid would happily finance the deal, then pay Alaves 'commission' to enlist the defender.

Not surprisingly, 19-year-old Coloccini, whose father Osvaldo played more than 400 games for Velez Sarsfield, isn't falling over himself to return to Italy. "In a couple of months at Alaves I've realised the Spanish League is a thousand times better for a footballer," he says. "Here, teams try to play football; in Italy, it's all tactics and too physical."

Four goals in his opening dozen games for Alaves were a bonus. "I started at Boca as an attacking midfielder," says Coloccini, who celebrates his goals by unveiling the chest tattoo of his late mother. "But [Argentina youth team guru] Jose Pekerman kept pushing me back into defence. At first it really annoyed me but time has proved him right."

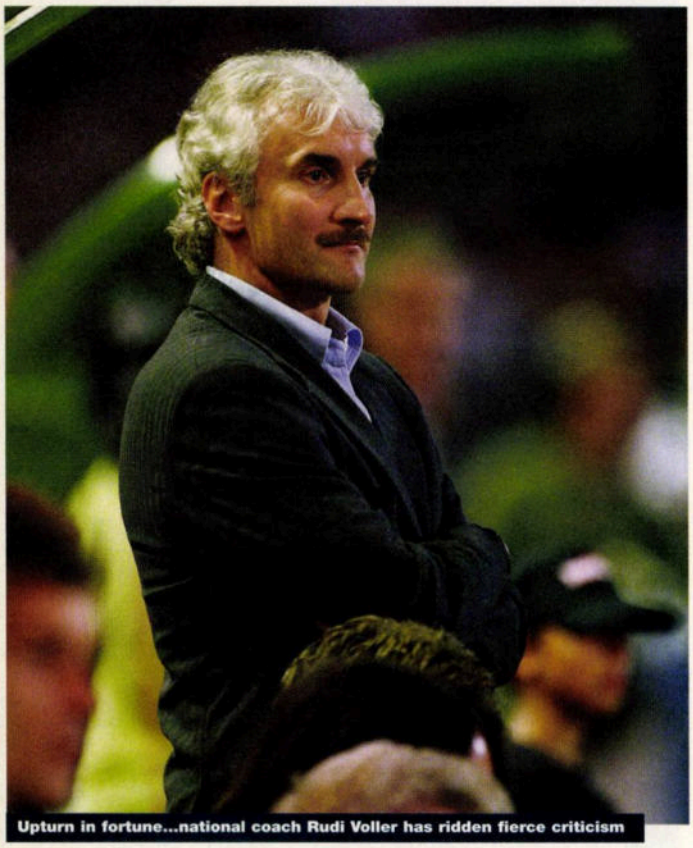
Jeff King

Fact file

Club Alaves (Spa)
Country Argentina
Born January 22, 1982, Cordoba
Previous clubs Boca Juniors, Milan (Ita), San Lorenzo
Honours World Youth Cup 2001; Argentinian closing championship 2001

Voller stays afloat

The World Cup play-off win has boosted the national coach's standing, says Nick Bidwell



Upturn in fortune...national coach Rudi Voller has ridden fierce criticism

NATIONAL coach Rudi Voller was so right recently when he lamented that media treatment of the national team was only either black or white.

After throwing away direct World Cup qualification with the 5-1 drubbing by England in Munich and the following goalless draw at home to Finland, Voller and his not-so-merry men were cast as the lowest of the low. But how the atmosphere lightened when the Germans steamrollered Ukraine 5-2 on aggregate in the play-offs to seal their place in Korea/Japan.

No one better exemplified the sea-change than the team's No 1 critic, Bayern Munich president Franz Beckenbauer. One moment he was bemoaning their lack of mental toughness and creativity, the next he was promising that if Germany were to meet England in the World Cup "it would be back to normal with a German victory".

Germany captain and keeper Oliver Kahn also seemed to have wiped Munich from his memory. "Now we have got through the high pressure of the play-offs, we shouldn't have any worries," he declared. "Against the Ukraine we really exploded. It was the spark we needed. I believe we stand on the brink of more good times."

Yet who could blame Kahn for being upbeat? Germany had won, and won well when the chips were down, and both play-off games were brimming over with pluses: the splendid performances of midfielders Michael Ballack and Bernd Schneider and defender Marko Rehmer, the way Germany dominated Ukraine physically, and the togetherness of the side. What's more, victory was secured without injured first-choice midfielders Mehmet Scholl, Jens Jeremies and Sebastian Deisler.

On the other hand, not even Germany's most die-hard fans could deny that Ukraine were surprisingly feeble and that Voller still has problems.

Despite attackers Oliver Neuville and Carsten Jancker's strong showing in the second leg, they still have to prove they can cut it at the highest level; striker and squad captain Oliver Bierhoff is well past his best; neither Christian Ziege nor Jorg Bohme have

Bakayoko back on song

The Ivorian striker has given Marseille a glimmer of hope, writes Andre Duclos

THESE haven't been easy days for Marseille, with the suspected heart problems of coach Tomislav Ivic, now back in charge after quitting in the summer, the latest worry.

The team's forward line had been depressingly sterile, but things seemed to have changed for the better when Ivory Coast striker Ibrahima Bakayoko banged in three goals during the 4-2 home win over Sochaux.

Ivic seems to think that Baka is best used as a substitute deluxe – he scored the previous week against Monaco when coming on for Ibrahim Ba – and though Baka doesn't agree with the situation, he accepts it.

He is also philosophical about the fact that he keeps hearing Marseille, who are in parlous financial straits, are keen to sell him. It won't stop him, he says, training twice as hard as anybody else and endlessly training to improve his finishing.

Ba, too, appears dedicated to a club for which he has huge respect, pointing out that it was the first French club to win the European Cup. "This club has a history," he says. "Those who come here should remember it."

Alas, we all know that around that very time the history of Marseille became very sordid indeed, leading to their relegation from the top division and disgrace at the hands of UEFA. But we know what he means.

Ba is still more philosophical about his various ups and downs than even Bakayoko. The talented 28-year-old Senegal-born winger did not have an easy passage into professional soccer. As a youngster he was turned down by Paris Saint-Germain and Auxerre. Little Le Havre gave him his chance and he thence moved on to Bordeaux where, under Rolland Courbis, he said he had the best period of his career, if only a season long, and one that would be hard to repeat.

From Bordeaux he was snapped up by Milan and introduced to the greater demands and rigours of Serie A. He feels now he was badly advised to go there, that Milan's 4-4-2 tactics did not suit him, coupled with the fact that they were going through a poor spell.

Nantes have continued their bizarre double life, sometimes excelling in the Champions League, but for ever slipping up in the *Championnat*, which they won last year.

Coach Raymond Denoueix seems as puzzled as everyone else about the contrast in his team's results. "Europe has saved us," he says, but it is not quite clear how, given the weird alternation of his team's results.

Denoueix stresses that when Nantes won the championship last season there were no easy games, that his side had always been at full stretch just as they've had to be this season. Nor will he accept that his players have put more into their European games than those in the League.

In fact, he feels the only possible reason for the contrasting results is that, by and large, Nantes have got off to a good start in their European games.

Notably, Denoueix doesn't harp on the fact that in the summer he lost possibly the most gifted and influential member of his team, Eric Carriere, to Lyon, while experienced Romanian

convinced at left wing-back; and the defence still has a soft centre.

The poor international form of Jens Nowotny, organiser of the three-man back line, is particularly worrying, and it could well be that Voller gives young Freiburg star Sebastian Kehl a try-out.

But before he thinks of the future, Voller might like to reflect on his first 500 days in the hot seat. He has made mistakes but is learning fast for someone who had previously never coached at any level before being appointed *Teamchef* in July last year. Voller certainly did his homework on the Ukrainians, and a gameplan based on pressing them in their own half and exploiting their susceptibility at set-pieces and on the flanks worked to perfection.

"Since the England defeat, it's been a difficult time," said Voller. "There was huge pressure in the play-offs, but it was sensational how well the boys coped with it.

"The extreme criticism I have received lately has been hard to bear. But the past few weeks have been a useful experience. During our training camp for the Ukraine games, something positive was developing within the team and we were totally focused."

Looking ahead to the World Cup after next, the residents of Munich overwhelmingly backed the plan to build a new city stadium in the suburb of Frottmaning, to be used during the finals and shared by Bayern and 1860. Beckenbauer had threatened to take Bayern away from the city should the people of Munich fail to agree to the project. But there was no need for him to carry out his threat, after 66 per cent voted in favour.

The two clubs will share the £160million construction costs of the 72,000-capacity arena, while Munich taxpayers will stump up some £120m for new roads, parking facilities and improved public transport links.

Bayern's recent agreement to sell a 10 per cent share of the club to Adidas should bring in £60m.

In the Bundesliga, another coach has bitten the dust, with Hansa Rostock deciding it was time to fire Friedhelm Funkel two hours after a 2-1 home loss to Wolfsburg.

On target...Ibrahima Bakayoko

striker Viorel Moldovan was very soon injured. Denoueix does acknowledge, however, that fitting several new players into the team wasn't easy.

Bordeaux have threatened to sue the Australian FA for the horrendous foul by Kevin Muscat that put their forward, Christophe Dugarry, out of the game for months, during the so-called 'friendly' against France in Melbourne. You cannot blame them for considering action, though it doesn't seem very likely they will get satisfaction.

But then, was the game really necessary? National coach Roger Lemerre put the best gloss he could on the 1-1 draw, though he still found time to condemn what had happened to Dugarry. After such bitter exchanges with Arsenal and other English clubs over the release of players, perhaps Lemerre had to hide behind a somewhat synthetic diplomacy. It's always infuriating for a club to lose a man who is injured playing for his country, but in this case the decision to go so far midway through a full European season only added to the distress.

Pro-file Bernd Schneider

Midfield dynamo and the secret behind Leverkusen's success

HIGH-LEVEL German sport has two Bernd Schneiders. One is an ex-Formula One and Touring Car champion driver, the other is a midfielder with Bayer Leverkusen and Germany, whose career has slipped into top gear in the past few months.

Without his creativity, dynamism and workrate on the right side of midfield, Leverkusen certainly would not be shaping up as serious pretenders to Bayern Munich's throne, and it was no more than he deserved when Germany boss Rudi Voller brought him into his team for the World Cup play-off duel with Ukraine.

Those who believed the *Nationalmannschaft* would lack guile in the absence of Mehmet Scholl and Sebastian Deisler need not have worried. Not for one moment in Kyiv and Dortmund did Schneider look as though he was starting his first national team game for 26 months. His neat ball control, incisiveness, terrier-like speed and excellent delivery were weapons the mismatched Ukrainians simply could not defuse. He was involved in four of Germany's goals in their comfortable 5-2 aggregate win.

"I settled in straightaway and enjoyed both games tremendously," says Schneider. "I have to thank my coach at Leverkusen, Klaus Toppmoller. He has given me a lot of self-belief and I was able to reproduce my club form in the national team. Now I'm hoping for more good times in the finals."

Schneider has been a well-kept secret for much of his career, spending no fewer than 15 years with Carl Zeiss Jena in the relative anonymity of DDR youth football and the unified German Second Division. However, his loyalty to his hometown club was finally exhausted when Jena were relegated to the regional leagues in summer 1998 and he joined Bundesliga side Eintracht Frankfurt.

The following season, Schneider did much to keep the relegation wolf from their door, notably starring in Eintracht's 5-1 final-day win over Kaiserslautern that kept them up. He moved on to Leverkusen that summer and also received a national team call-up, making his debut against New Zealand at the Confederations Cup in Mexico. "Perhaps I stayed too long in Jena and it cost me two years of my career," admits Schneider. "Even so, I learnt a lot there.

"Anyway, it's all turned out well. I'm in the national team and play for a Leverkusen side that are in the Champions League and battling for the Bundesliga title. I don't have any reason for regrets."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Bayer Leverkusen
Country Germany
Born November 17, 1973, in Jena
Previous clubs Aufbau Jena, Carl Zeiss Jena, Eintracht Frankfurt
International debut July 1999, v New Zealand
International caps 7 (0 goals)

Fowler boosts Leeds' firepower

Gavin Hamilton on the departure from Anfield of Liverpool's most potent striker

Man on a mission...Robbie Fowler displays his new shirt after his £11million move to Leeds

IN WHAT could prove to be the most significant transfer of the season, Leeds signed striker Robbie Fowler from Liverpool for £11 million.

So Fowler, arguably the best penalty-box striker in the Premiership, brought to an end a 10-year relationship with his hometown club.

The move marked the final severing of ties by Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier with the club's so-called 'Spice Boys'. Although Fowler, the father of two young children, had modified his lifestyle in recent years, Houllier was said to be angry at reports of late-night sightings of the player in Liverpool city centre.

The widely reported training ground bust-up between 26-year-old Fowler and assistant manager Phil Thompson made the Anfield hierarchy determined to sell a player who was more popular with the club's fans than Michael Owen. The sale of local boy Fowler upset fans most because he was sold to the team who seem most likely to challenge Liverpool for the League title over the coming months.

Fowler scored 171 goals in 330 games for Liverpool. Yet under Houllier, he had to make do with the role of understudy to Owen and Emile Heskey. Fowler was caught in a footballing Catch-22, unable to perform when given a chance because of a lack of match fitness, but unable to regain fitness because he could not hold down a regular place.

At Leeds, Fowler will replace Alan Smith as first choice after manager David O'Leary lost patience with his young striker when he incurred a three-match ban following another red card. Fowler actually partnered Smith and Mark Viduka on his debut at Fulham as O'Leary opted for an adventurous formation. But the manager has promised Fowler an extended run to help him raise his level of match fitness and sharpness that much quicker.

The signing of Fowler took Leeds' spending under O'Leary to £90m and was in line with their policy of buying the best young English players available. With Fowler and Viduka leading the attack, Smith and Robbie Keane on the bench, and Harry Kewell and Lee Bowyer scoring goals from midfield, Leeds will be in a strong position to exploit the problems being experienced by champions Manchester United, whose traditional late autumn wobbles are in danger of turning into something more serious.

The standards set by United over the past decade have been so high that any lapse from the norm triggers alarm bells. But the catalogue of defensive errors following the sale of Jaap Stam to Lazio suggests more deep-rooted problems. Chelsea, with problems of their own, still handed out a lesson at Old Trafford in an embarrassingly comfortable 3-0 victory.

Already this season, United have lost at Liverpool and Arsenal, the two venues where manager Sir Alex Ferguson hates losing most. Both games featured errors by goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, the most dramatic being his two at Highbury which led to Thierry Henry being gifted a goal each time.

With mistakes by Gary Neville (also against Arsenal), Mickael Silvestre (Bayern Munich), Wes Brown (Deportivo) and Laurent Blanc's unease at the pace of the Premiership, United are sharing their defensive woes around the team. But it was probably not the sort of squad rotation Ferguson had in mind.

United's defensive problems – 26 goals conceded in 14 games, the second worst in the Premiership, and compared to 31 in 38 matches last season – are a symptom of a wider issue, namely the change in style introduced by Ferguson this season. Against Arsenal, United played a cautious game, with Ruud Van Nistelrooy again the lone striker and Paul Scholes the fifth man in midfield. It is a strategy for Europe and to the detriment of their Premiership prospects.

Ferguson's thoughts would be enlightening but, we have been denied them. He is refusing to speak to the press, communicating only through MUTV, the club's TV station, and via official UEFA press conferences, a contractual obligation of Champions League participation.

Ferguson's *omerta* is his response to mounting media criticism of United. Yet all the signs are that football's original control freak is losing his grip. Following the departure of Steve McClaren to Middlesbrough in the summer, Ferguson insisted on seeing out his final season as manager without an assistant. Yet throughout his time at Old Trafford, he has relied on a strong staff, with Brian Kidd his assistant before McClaren.

Ferguson's greatest asset has been his ability to motivate players. Yet almost all the United first-team squad – David Beckham is the key exception – have

signed extended contracts in the past year. With a lucrative income guaranteed for the next five years the players may no longer have the hunger which Ferguson has so successfully exploited.

On current form, there is little chance of United succeeding in the knockout stages of the Champions League in April. The teams that have been most successful in recent years have been those with the strongest defences (Valencia and Bayern Munich) while Real Madrid have overcome their defensive weaknesses by playing to their attacking strengths.

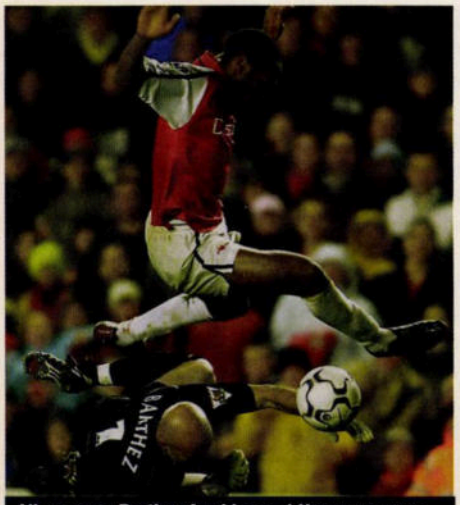
At the risk of sounding presumptuous, what price Ferguson not seeing out his final season? What if United fail to fulfil the manager's dream of reaching the Champions League Final in Glasgow, and then find themselves out of the Premiership running for next season's Champions League places?

The succession is still undecided, although United chairman Peter Kenyon says there is one name in the frame. Of the early front-runners, Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld insists he will honour his contract with the European champions, while Martin O'Neill recently invested heavily in Celtic shares. However, Fabio Capello remains a strong contender, while Sven Goran Eriksson and Arsene Wenger have also been mooted.

United will have to name their man before the World Cup finals begin. Only a disastrous campaign in Korea/Japan would free up Eriksson, who is contracted to the FA until 2006.

Wenger is a more interesting case, because he has still to sign a new contract with Arsenal. For the best part of a year the Frenchman, whose current deal expires in June, has been insisting he is on the verge of agreeing to stay at Highbury. But still nothing has been signed.

Ferguson's continued presence at Old Trafford next season is likely to preclude a move for Wenger. But the six months between now and May is a long time in football.



Allez oops...Barthez fumbles and Henry pounces

Same old story...Joos Valgaeren puts Celtic ahead in the Old Firm game

SCOTLAND

Old Firm defeat puts Advocaat on rack

CELTIC'S 2-1 home victory in the season's second Old Firm encounter gave them a 10-point championship lead and put added pressure on Rangers manager Dick Advocaat.

Bearing in mind the Ibrox side's great success of recent years, the Dutchman is likely to soon lose the fans' backing unless there is some sign of improvement.

Advocaat is hardly helped by the fact that his opposite number at Celtic, Martin O'Neill, has moulded a team that operates in a vein similar to the dominant Rangers side of a few years ago – grinding out results week in, week out, to build up a mid-season lead that gives them an aura of invincibility.

As in the first Old Firm meeting at the end of September, Rangers enjoyed the majority of possession yet still ended up as losers. Joos Valgaeren put Celtic ahead just before the hour, with Henrik Larsson doubling the lead from the penalty spot 12 minutes later. Rangers' consolation came from substitute Peter Lovenkrands on 77 minutes.

One of the few positive signals to come out of Ibrox of late has been the introduction to the first team of 20-year-old Maurice Ross. The young defender took over from Fernando Ricksen in the Old Firm game and produced a performance of exceptional maturity, suggesting Rangers are finally seeing results from their youth development programme. This has not produced a first-team regular since club captain Barry Ferguson emerged from the ranks.

However, Celtic have also shown that they can grow their own, with forward Shaun Maloney, another Old Firm game participant, making his first-team breakthrough.

The disappointment of the season from a competitive point of view has been the failure of any team to mount a challenge to the Glasgow duopoly. That said, promoted Livingston have proved to be a refreshing addition to the top flight, and lay third in the 12-team division after 16 games.

Alan Fairley

WALES

Gregan goes after giantkilling

THERE were shocks galore in the third round of the Cup as four National League sides went out to lower level sides. The major surprise was Aberystwyth Town's 1-0 home defeat by third level Aberaman Athletic, which, after a further defeat, led to manager Frank Gregan's departure. He has been replaced, as player-manager, by defender Gary Finlay.

Haverfordwest County also lost at home, to second level Pontardawe Town. This followed a walkout by players and management, angry at cuts in the wages budget.

Llanelli went out to Cardiff Civil Service, having already parted company with manager Gary Proctor after a string of poor League results. He was replaced by Jason Jones, who had left the hot seat at Haverfordwest the previous week.

Rhayader Town, under new manager Meirion Appleton, lost at second level north high-fliers Halkyn United.

In the League, leaders Connah's Quay Nomads have continued to show impressive form, though TNS and Bangor City are chasing hard.

Mel Thomas

N IRELAND

Three off as leaders clash

THREE players were sent off in a stormy top-of-the-table clash between Glentoran and Portadown, which ended in a 2-2 draw.

Tempers boiled over after Glentoran took a 2-0 lead midway through the second half. Glentoran's Darren Lockhart and captain Chris Walker and Portadown's Darren Fitzgerald were all dismissed.

The visitors took advantage of their numerical advantage by scoring twice in the last nine minutes to take a point.

Former Glentoran forward Justin McBride scored a hat-trick as a second-half substitute on his delayed debut for rivals Linfield. McBride, who injured his back in a car accident before the season started, hit his goals in the 4-0 win over bottom club Crusaders.

Former national team keeper Tommy Wright, most recently with First Division Ballymena United, has been forced to retire because of a recurrent knee injury.

Roy Kitson

Adriaanse and Van Gaal out of work

Klaas-Jan Droppert on two heavyweight departures

HOLLAND

ON consecutive days, the departures of two of Holland's most respected coaches were announced – Ajax's Co Adriaanse and national team boss Louis Van Gaal.

Adriaanse was the first to go, sacked despite his side's heroic 3-2 win against Twente, having been 2-0 down with only 10 men, and the fact they were second in the League.

No reasons were given by the Ajax board, but he was clearly unpopular with the fans, who never forgave him for discarding veterans Aron Winter and Richard Witschge, and for the introduction of a more defensive 5-3-2 formation.

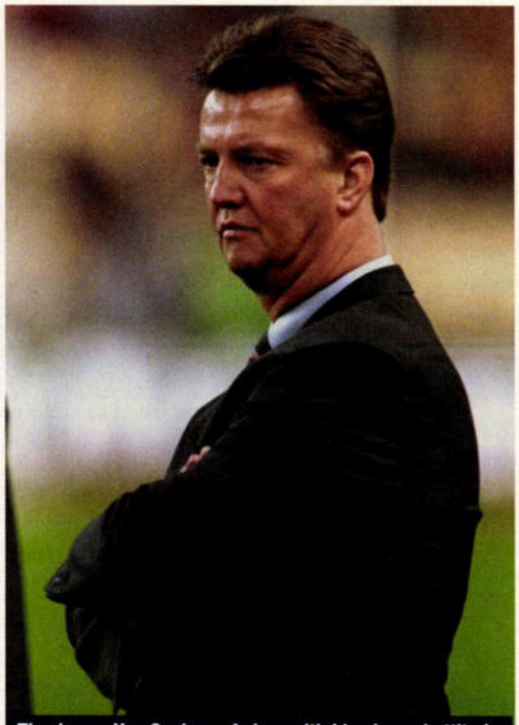
Adriaanse also lacked the support of technical director Leo Beenhakker, who was critical of Ajax's early exit from the Champions League at the hands of Celtic. What's more, the Twente victory came after a seven-match winless streak, including UEFA Cup elimination by FC Copenhagen and a home League defeat by arch-rivals PSV.

Vitesse Arnhem boss Ronald Koeman, who played for Ajax from 1983 to 1986, was quickly installed as Adriaanse's successor, having already announced that he would quit financially-troubled Vitesse at the end of the season.

The day after Adriaanse's departure, Van Gaal announced his resignation live on TV. "It is a very sad day for me," he said. "My ambition was to become world champion but we didn't even get to the World Cup. We, the players and coaches, have failed, not the Dutch FA, not the sponsors, not the supporters."

Van Gaal was expected to quit immediately after Holland's decisive defeat by the Republic of Ireland in September. Instead, he said he wanted time to discuss the situation with his players, or as he put it, "not to consult them whether I should stay but to ask what their vision was".

The results proved something of a surprise for Van Gaal. "They have a different opinion about what is a professional approach," he said. "My conclusion is that the drive was missing from among the majority of the squad. My strength is to get that extra 10 per cent out of players. Now I have been working more like a school principal correcting their attitude. I can't go on like that – maybe someone else can bring their drive back." Johan Cruyff was quick to rule himself out of the running, leaving Willem Van Hanegem, Dick Advocaat and Ruud Gullit as the leading candidates.



Time's up...Van Gaal was fed up with his players' attitude

Van Gaal's last match in charge was the November friendly in Denmark, a boring 1-1 draw. Most significant were the appearances of Aston Villa midfielder George Boateng, who many felt should have made his debut much earlier, and AZ goalkeeper Oscar Moens, playing for the first time since his debut three years ago.

Forced out...Ciriaco Sforza

SWITZERLAND

Holders Servette thrown out of Cup

CUP-HOLDERS Servette were expelled from this season's tournament for fielding an ineligible player during their fifth round win against minor league side Wangen.

According to the FA disciplinary committee, a booking received by Goran Obradovic during the 2001 Final meant he was suspended for the Wangen game, in which Servette had struggled before a last-minute goal gave them a 3-2 victory. As a result, the amateurs were awarded a 3-0 win, though Servette president Michel Coencas said his club would appeal because the competition rules were not clearly defined.

There were more Cup shocks, this time on the field, as six times winners Sion, ex-champions St Gallen and Neuchatel Xamax also bowed out in the fifth round.

Grasshopper's sixth-round tie against Second Division Yverdon will be a family affair, pitting the champions' 32-year-old international striker Stephane Chapuisat against the team coached by his father, Gabet.

There was a less pleasant surprise in store for Chapuisat junior after Switzerland coach Kobi Kuhn said in a newspaper interview that he would no longer consider either the striker or former captain Ciriaco Sforza, 31, in his squads.

While Chapuisat expressed his surprise, since he was due to meet Kuhn to discuss his future, Sforza was particularly aggrieved, claiming the coach had told him he would build his Euro 2004 squad around him.

Record national team scorer Kubilay Turkyilmaz has also played his last game after learning that irreparable knee damage has signalled the end of his playing career.

Ivar von Rulach

BELGIUM

Verheyen takes centre stage

GERT VERHEYEN has had a remarkable month for both club and country. The Club Brugge forward scored the first-leg goal against the Czech Republic that put Belgium on their way to the World Cup finals, won the penalty in the second leg, and scored all four goals in Brugge's 4-0 win at Charleroi that took his club to the top of the League.

The first of his goals against Charleroi was his 100th in Belgian football, the fourth his 100th for Brugge.

In contrast, there was misery for two of Brugge's closest domestic challengers. Gent, the early season pacesetters, lost 3-2 at Germinal Beerschot, who had also knocked them out of the Cup, 4-3.

This was the same score by which Anderlecht also exited the Cup, at the hands of Lokeren, who hit back from 3-0 down. The remarkable turnaround came after Anderlecht's key central defender Glen De Boeck was forced to go off with a twisted muscle.

The Belgian federation has decided that Gent's 4-1 defeat of Westerlo in August should be allowed to stand, Westerlo having sportingly acknowledged that the departure of midfielder Sammy Van den Bossche after being hit by a stone thrown from the crowd made little difference to the outcome.

Nicholas Harling

REP OF IRELAND

Cup throws up Final rematch

BOHEMIANS, the Carlsberg FAI Cup holders, will meet Longford Town, who they beat in last season's Final, in the first round this time. The draw produced another plum tie, with improving Cork City hosting League leaders and 24-times Cup winners Shamrock Rovers.

Former Republic manager Eoin Hand, now the FAI's career guidance officer, has proposed a scheme to help youngsters who fail to make the grade with English clubs. The idea is to set up a summer residential course at Dublin City University where the players would be re-trained.

Sean Creedon

LUXEMBOURG

Cicchirillo fires F91

THE goals of Frederick Cicchirillo, including five against Mondercange, helped defending champions F91 Dudelange go three points clear at the top of the table. Cicchirillo's tally was 17 after just 15 League games, putting him well on course to become the season's top scorer.

Etzella Ettelbruck and Luxembourg midfielder Luc Holtz has returned to action ahead of schedule after suffering serious injuries in a car crash in which his girlfriend died. Holtz's career had looked in doubt but fears proved unfounded as he came back to help lift Etzella off the bottom of the table.

Tim Brice

PORTUGAL

Angola friendly turns into war

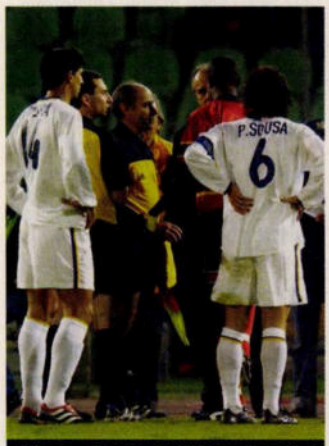
THE visit of the Angolan national team for a friendly with former colonial rulers Portugal was always likely to be eventful but no one could have foreseen the scenario that unfolded.

The Angolan fans were clearly proud to see their players preparing to confront the likes of Luis Figo, Pauleta and Joao Pinto, with Sporting Lisbon's Alvalade stadium bedecked in their national flag. And there was mayhem when Angola took a first-minute lead through Mendonca.

However, the game went rapidly downhill as Angola began to stage a re-enactment of their country's war of independence. After just half an hour they were down to eight men, Asha, Wilson and Franklin all having been dismissed for violent play.

It was not long before Portugal took advantage of their numerical superiority and began to score with monotonous regularity. Then, just after the hour, with Portugal leading 5-1, Angola were reduced to seven men when Neto received his marching orders.

Minutes later, the game was abandoned when, due to an injury and the fact that Angola had used all their substitutes, they were unable to field more than six players, one below the minimum number required.



Chaos...referee Garibian calls a halt

While the behaviour of the Angolan players was inexcusable, the French referee, Pascal Garibian, failed to control the situation and rejected using more diplomatic methods, such as calling together both teams' officials to calm down their players, before showing his rash of red cards.

Carlos Manuel, recently fired by Santa Clara, has taken the helm at Salgueiros, who sacked Vitor Manuel following the 5-1 home defeat by Sporting Lisbon. Later in November, Spaniard Alberto Pazos was dismissed by Farense with the club three points above the relegation zone.

Alberto da Silva

Pro-file Hugo Viana

Sporting teenager on the fast track to stardom

NEVER lacking in youthful talent, Portuguese football has prospected more gold in Sporting Lisbon central midfielder Hugo Viana.

The 18-year-old is the archetypal overnight sensation. At the start of this season, he was not even listed as one of Sporting's first-team squad and looked set for a campaign with the B side. However, new coach Laszlo Boloni had other ideas.

The former Romanian national team boss remembered seeing Viana inspire Portugal to the European Under-16 title in Israel last May and promoted him to the first team for a pre-season tournament in Spain. A wise move. Viana's composure, enterprise and near-flawless distribution spurred Sporting to victory.

A month later his life in the Portuguese top flight started with a bang, appearing as a substitute against Guimaraes and setting up a goal for Mario Jardel with his first touch, an inch-perfect cross.

Over the next few weeks the teenager continued to flourish, and impressed Portugal coach Antonio Oliveira enough to call him into his squad for the November friendly with Angola.

"Hugo has a great deal of talent and I have been pleasantly surprised when watching him recently," said Oliveira. "In four years, Hugo Viana can be one of the regulars of the Portuguese side."

Viana came on as a half-time substitute in the November friendly against Angola but had little chance to sparkle since the game was abandoned after 70 minutes with the visitors down to six men. But he will win other chances and, in the meantime, he can console himself with his status as the youngest national team debutant since the 17-year-old Paulo Futre broke into the side back in 1983.

The trend of the past few years has been for highly promising young Portuguese stars – Edgar, Hugo Leal, Dani, Simao Sabrosa – to move abroad, arguably prematurely. Viana looks likely to avoid such a pitfall. He is a thoughtful, modest individual, and Sporting fans appreciate his deep-seated attachment to the green-and-white hoops.

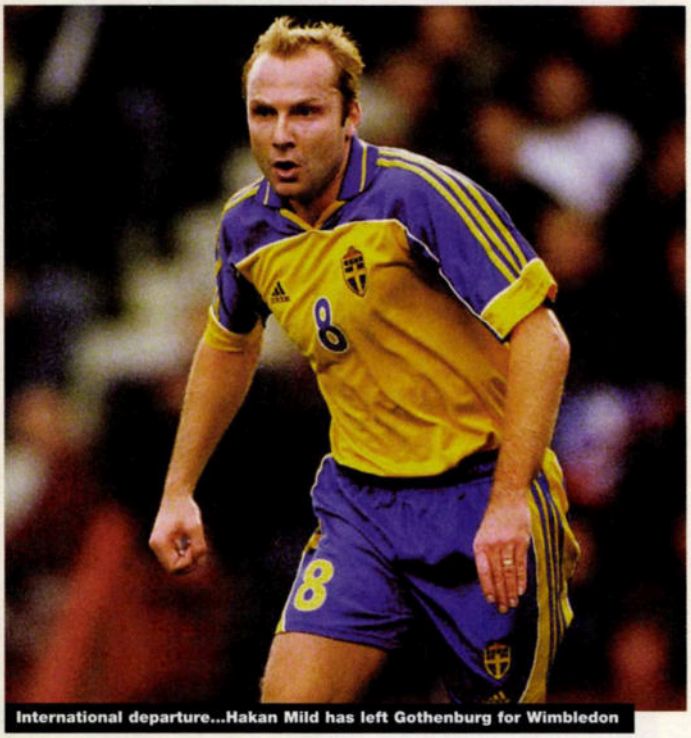
"When I was 15 and playing for Gil Vicente, I was also contacted by FC Porto, Braga and Guimaraes, but opted for Sporting because they showed most interest and offered me the best conditions to live and work," says Viana.

"Everything has happened so fast I haven't had time to think about what I've achieved. I could not have imagined that this season I would be side by side with my idols at Sporting and the national team."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Sporting Lisbon
Country Portugal
Born January 15, 1983, in Braga
Previous club Gil Vicente
International debut November 2001, v Angola
International caps 1 (0 goals)
Honours European Under-16 Championship 2001


International departure...Hakan Mild has left Gothenburg for Wimbledon

Bitter conditions force Mild sale

Pentti Hietanen on IFK Gothenburg's financial plight

SWEDEN

IT IS a sign of the times that IFK Gothenburg sold midfielder Hakan Mild to Wimbledon immediately after the player had scored in Sweden's 1-1 friendly draw with England in Manchester.

Ten years ago a move like this would have been out of the question. Mild has been IFK's standard bearer for years and was their only current full international. But he was also their biggest earner and the club had to cut their costs after yet another failure to win the domestic League.

It is clear that IFK are no longer the money bags of Swedish soccer. Mild's sale could enable them to hang on to their remaining stars, notably goalkeeper Bengt Andersson, midfielder Jimmy Svensson and big striker Gustaf Andersson, who is another target for British clubs.

The draw with England, which was achieved without star performers Henrik Larsson and Player of the Year Patrik Andersson, was deemed a success at least in one respect: in Heerenveen's Erik Edman, Sweden may have finally discovered a player to fill their problematic left-back position. But while Edman impressed, the much-vaunted Ajax star Zlatan Ibrahimovic failed to live up to expectations.

In the League, Soren Cratz has taken the helm at Helsingborgs, while Anders Gronhagen has left Sundsvall to lead Elfsborg.

NORWAY

Viking take Cup for consolation

VIKING had a mixed finish to their season. First they had to concede defeat to Rosenborg in the title race and then they were knocked out of the UEFA Cup after two poor performances against Hertha Berlin.

However, they finished on a high as they overcame Bryne in the Cup Final, played in front of a capacity crowd at Oslo's Ullevaal stadium. Viking never gave their local rivals a chance and took the lead after only three minutes when Roger Eskeland put through his own goal. Morten Berre and Hannu Tihinen added further goals to make Viking comfortable 3-0 winners.

Bryne did manage to salvage their top-flight status, however, beating Second Division Hamarkameratene 3-0 on aggregate in the relegation/promotion play-off, staged in the week after the Cup Final.

Jan Aage Fjortoft has quit Stabaek after mutual consent having failed to establish himself in the first team.

Sigurd Odegaard

FINLAND

Cup win for men from Atlantis

LEAGUE champions Tampere United were denied the Double, despite having home advantage, when beaten 1-0 by Atlantis in the Cup Final.

The tie, played in near-farcical conditions, should have been staged two days earlier but a frozen pitch at Helsinki's Finnair stadium forced the game to be switched to Tampere. The state of the ground there was little better than in the capital, however, and the farce continued when Tampere goalkeeper Mikko Kaven dropped an easy catch to let in Brazilian forward Adriano to hit the winner.

Ironically, Kaven, with 16 clean sheets to his name in the League, was probably the best keeper this season.

Atlantis players opened their post-match champagne with mixed feelings. The club's future is in the balance because of economic difficulties.

After much media speculation, HJK Helsinki named Keith Armstrong as their new coach. His place at FC Haka will be taken by his former number two, Olli Huttunen, formerly the club's long-time goalkeeper.

Pentti Hietanen

ICELAND

Homemade talent to replace takeaways

IN THE run-up to Christmas, many of Iceland's clubs have been hoping for an injection of goodwill from their bank manager, sponsors or any other well-wishers as the reality of the domestic game's financial plight has begun to sink in.

Despite the gate receipts from this year's record attendances, plus money from TV rights, sponsorship and various grants, many clubs are finding they can no longer maintain their lifestyle of recent years. Notably, the knell has been sounded for the import of players, whether from Brazil or the Balkans.

The restructuring of European competitions, once a potential source of income for the successful few Icelandic clubs, has made the prospect of a big second- or third-round payday about as likely as winning the national lottery. This has left the clubs with only one option: to find young players, nurture them, and sell them on when the opportunity arises.

Rab Christie

DENMARK

Brondby still clear despite hiccup

BRONDBY'S impressive run of form was rudely interrupted by a shock 1-0 defeat at home to bottom side Silkeborg in the 17th League round.

Ulrik Pedersen headed the goal for Silkeborg, securing only the second win of the season for his club. Even so, they remained rooted to the bottom, while Brondby were still eight points clear at the top.

The Copenhagen club, coached by former Manchester City defender Age Hareide, have dominated the domestic season and won their previous match 2-0 away to the impressive Esbjerg. Both goals came from Superliga top scorer Peter Madsen, the player of the season so far.

Morten Olsen has already drafted the 23-year-old striker into the Danish national squad, and Madsen, valued at £6.5million, looks bound to move abroad next summer, with the Bundesliga the most likely destination.

Jim Holden

Bang in form...Peter Madsen

WIN

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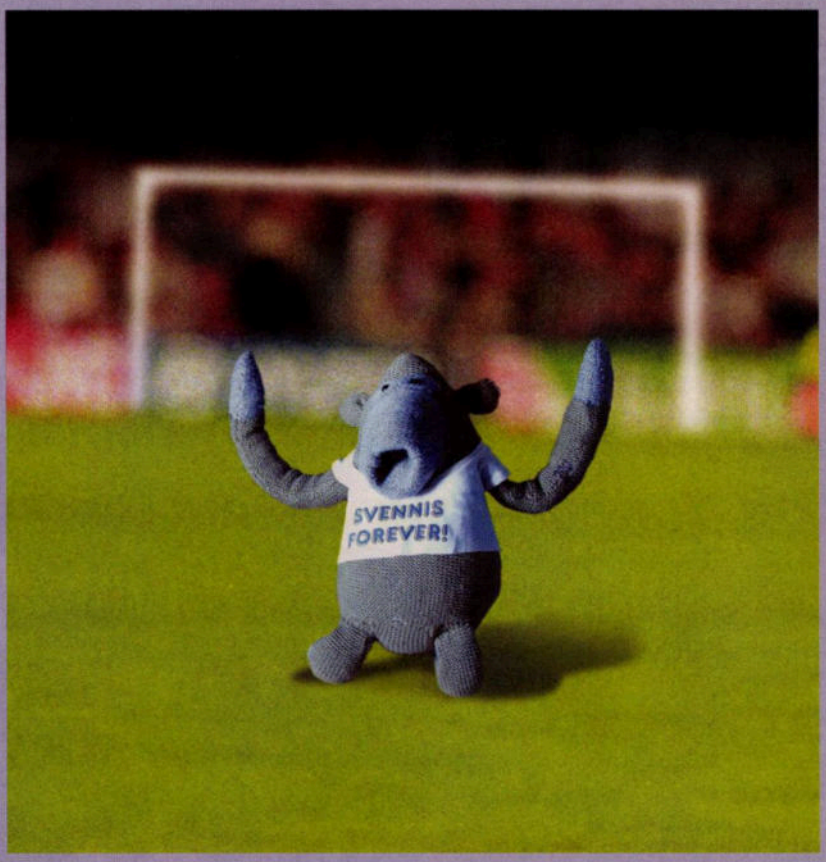

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Gunes rounds on critics

Hasan Cemali on the national coach's reaction to World Cup qualification

TURKEY

NATIONAL coach Senol Gunes has vowed to lead Turkey at next year's World Cup, but only after taking a swipe at the critics who dogged him during the qualification campaign.

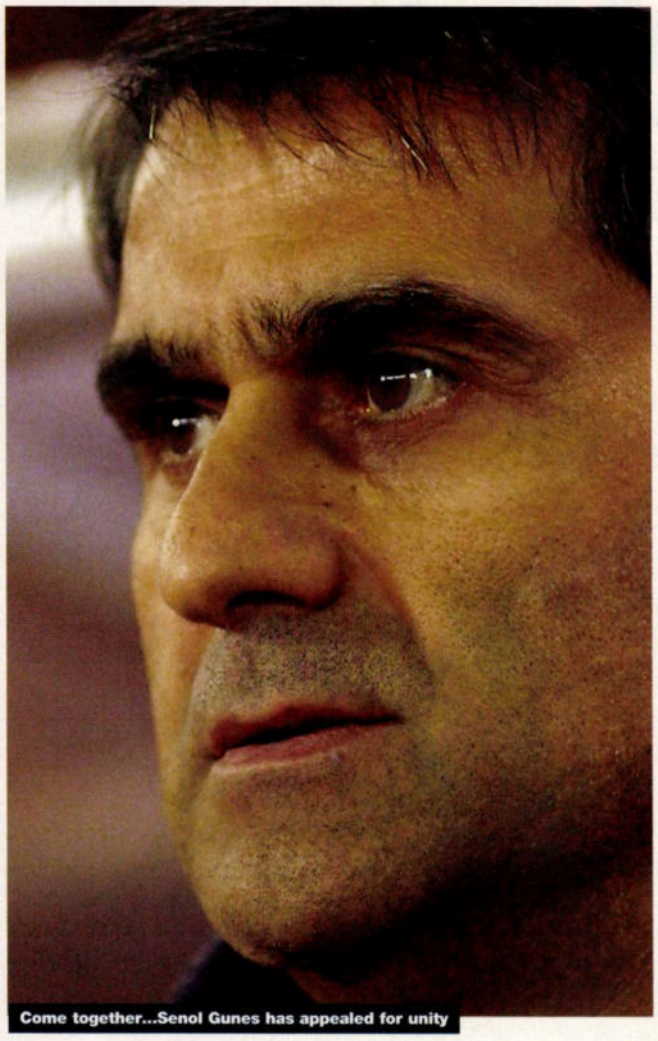
"I am happy to have done my job but I am not filled with joy," said Gunes after his side had qualified for the finals, for the first time since 1954, by beating Austria 6-0 on aggregate in the play-offs. "The criticism of me has gone beyond fair comment."

The coach's detractors had claimed that he lacked the experience and charisma to take Turkey to the finals, and Gunes appeared to be hinting that he might resign when stating: "Whoever comes after me shouldn't be subjected to the same attacks."

Although Gunes has since confirmed that he will lead the country in Korea/Japan, he issued a warning to those critics who made him consider standing down. "In future, I do not want arguments; I want support, unity and togetherness," he declared.

Gunes had been particularly angered by comments that followed the team's failure to qualify automatically for the finals, a situation that sparked a campaign to bring back former national coach Fatih Terim in his place.

In the League, Gala suffered a shock 5-0 defeat at Bursaspor, but won their next three games to lead by four points from Fenerbahce. The latter's mid-November win over Genclerbirligi was their 24th in a row at home in the League, a new Turkish record. However, the run ended when they were beaten 2-1 by Besiktas a fortnight later.



Come together...Senol Gunes has appealed for unity

GREECE

Panathinaikos suffer at home

PANATHINAIKOS, enjoying a fine run in the Champions League, have been unable to reproduce that form at home, and were languishing nine points behind League leaders AEK Athens after eight rounds.

"I want you to play like winners again, because I see we are going into matches as losers," coach Yiannis Kyrastas told his players during a recent training session. "From now on, only players who are in good condition will play. The grace period is over."

By contrast, AEK are enjoying their best League start for years, and Portuguese coach Fernando Santos has the team on course for their first championship for a decade.

The national team had mixed fortunes in November in their two friendlies against mediocre opposition, both played in Athens. The first was a convincing 4-2 victory over Estonia, but they embarrassingly lost the second, 2-1 to Cyprus.

Lou Economopoulos

● **CYPRIOT** champions Omonia Nicosia fired coach Henk Houwart shortly after he accused several of his players of illegal gambling and setting up their own betting office.

YUGOSLAVIA

Davidovic cued up as coach

DIMITRIJE DAVIDOVIC was tipped to become the new national coach, after former international Dejan Savicevic dropped out of the running. The 57-year-old former Partizan player has had a successful coaching career in Belgium, particularly with Antwerp, as well as Hungary and the Middle East.

Dusan Bajevic, Radomir Antic, Ljubisa Tumbakovic and Ljupko Petrovic were the other leading candidates.

Savicevic ruled himself out of the contest, despite appearing as good as certain to win the appointment. The former Milan star was believed to have taken the leading role in the three-man caretaker team appointed in the wake of Milovan Djoric's

Hajduk hot-seat...Slaven Bilic

CROATIA

Bilic takes Hajduk reins

FORMER international Slaven Bilic has been appointed manager of under-performing Hajduk Split, the club he returned to play for after spells at West Ham and Everton.

The defender took the reins hours after Nenad Gracan was fired in the wake of a Cup defeat by Varteks and some mediocre League form.

The country's leading international scorer, Davor Suker, has joined 1860 Munich, ending his long search for a club. Suker had been a free agent since departing West Ham in the summer, and was turned down by two other German sides, Nurnberg and Hamburg, because of his high wage demands.

National coach Mirko Jozic was forced to take a makeshift squad to South Korea for two friendly internationals following the withdrawal of several regular players.

The results were not positive – a 2-0 defeat and a 1-1 draw – but two players did make their mark: Hertha Berlin's Australia-born defender, Josip Simunic, and Grasshopper forward Mladen Petric, Croatia-born but resident in Switzerland since early childhood.

Zdravko Reic

dismissal in May. However, he said he felt he needed more coaching experience to do the job alone and on a permanent footing.

Cup holders Partizan were knocked out of this season's tournament in the quarter-finals, Zeleznik beating them 4-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

Vladimir Novak

ALBANIA

A Martini too many forces rematch

THE federation has ordered a League game between Partizani and Vllaznia Shkoder to be replayed after the referee mistakenly allowed a dismissed player to remain on the pitch.

Vllaznia forward Edi Martini was shown a second yellow card when he removed his shirt to celebrate his 91st-minute goal that had appeared to give his side a 1-0 victory.

However, the official failed to notice that Martini was still on the pitch as Partizani restarted the game. Moments later, the Tirana side equalised and the game finished 1-1.

Gezim Nushi

MACEDONIA

Jovanovski stands his ground

THE national team suffered their second successive 5-0 defeat in a friendly in Hungary. However, coach Gjore Jovanovski has continued to state his intention to carry on at the helm.

The result in Budapest followed on from the 5-0 World Cup thrashing by Slovakia in Skopje in October.

"I don't look for alibis in the fact we had injured players," said Jovanovski. "I take all the responsibility, but I have no intention of resigning. I led the team for half of the World Cup qualifiers and in the past few games I have been experimenting to try to find the best national squad."

In the domestic League, former national coach Dragan Kanatlarovski has replaced Risto Ancev at Belasica, Yugoslavian Nenad Stavric comes in for Momcilo Mitevski at Sileks, and Alekso Mackov has been fired by struggling Osogovo.

Michel Stojmanovski

SLOVENIA

Fans celebrate Katanec's special reserves

AMID the wild celebrations that greeted the country's qualification for their first World Cup finals, due respect has been paid to the achievement of national coach Srecko Katanec.

Timely strike...Mladen Rudonja

His feat was to mould a successful side out of what are essentially reserves. Katanec used 26 players during the qualifiers, only five of whom – those based in the domestic League – are regular starters for their club sides.

The others mainly sit on the bench at best, including Slovenia's only real star, Zlatko Zahovic, now at Benfica. Ironically, he did not figure in the play-off games against Romania, a 2-1 win in Ljubljana followed by a 1-1 draw in Bucharest. The vital second leg goal came from Mladen Rudonja, who had failed to score in any of his previous 52 internationals.

Zdravko Reic

MALTA

Happy farewell for Saliba

THE national team won their first game for 21 months when beating Canada 2-1 in a friendly at Hibernians' ground in Corradino. David Carabott and Michael Mifsud scored the goals that ended the drought.

The match marked the final appearance of veteran midfielder Nicky Saliba, who has quit the national team after winning 69 caps.

Domenico Aquilina

Pro-file Ivica Olic

Zagreb's in-form forward set for international stardom

AFTER failing to do himself justice during spells with Internazionale and Hertha Berlin, Croat Under-21 and NK Zagreb striker Ivica Olic will soon have the chance to set the record straight.

Olic, scorer of 16 goals in the opening 14 games of this season, is the hottest property in Croatian football. With Juventus, Lazio, Parma, PSV Eindhoven and FC Porto all showing an interest, it is a foregone conclusion that he will head for the border next summer.

"Of course, it has to be the ambition of every player in Croatia to go abroad and, yes, some clubs have been in contact with me," says Olic, on loan at NK Zagreb from Marsonia. "But at the moment I want to concentrate on helping Zagreb win the championship."

Certainly, Olic has shown no sign of being distracted by all the transfer speculation. Every weekend his blistering acceleration and sharpness in the box have proved too hot for defenders, and it speaks volumes that midway through the season he had scored more goals than the entire frontline of the usually dominant Dinamo Zagreb.

What a difference from the Olic who flopped at Hertha in 1998-99. He had been touted as the ideal strike partner for Michael Preetz, but, in fact, he appeared only twice for the first team and gladly returned to Marsonia at the end of a truly disheartening season.

However, back on familiar turf, he quickly rediscovered his form, helping Marsonia gain promotion to the First Division in 1999-00 and then netting 16 goals last term as they just stayed up.

Last summer, the rumour mill had Olic moving to Hajduk Split, only for the reality to be a loan switch to NK Zagreb. There, everything has clicked into place. He and fellow attackers Admir Hasancic and Antonio Franja have dovetailed beautifully, the team went on a winning roll and Olic's goals brought him a first call-up to the full Croatia squad for the World Cup qualifier against Belgium in October.

While the forward played no part in Croatia's 1-0 win, which secured their place in South Korea and Japan, he should still feel confident of flying to Asia, not least because national coach Mirko Jozic has been openly singing his praises.

And then, who knows? With a number of top-line Croat attackers fighting personal demons at the moment – Davor Suker is ageing fast, Goran Vlaovic is inconsistent and Bosko Balaban is not a first-choice at Aston Villa – it is not beyond the realms of possibility that Ivica Olic will be the player to whom Jozic turns.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club NK Zagreb
Country Croatia
Born September 14, 1979, in Slavonski Brod
Previous clubs Marsonia, Internazionale (Ita), Marsonia, Hertha Berlin (Ger), Marsonia

Hagi quits after five months

Michael Bowesfield on the former national team star's brief reign as coach

ROMANIA

GHEORGHE HAGI, appointed national coach only in late June, stepped down after his side lost out to Slovenia in the World Cup qualifying play-offs.

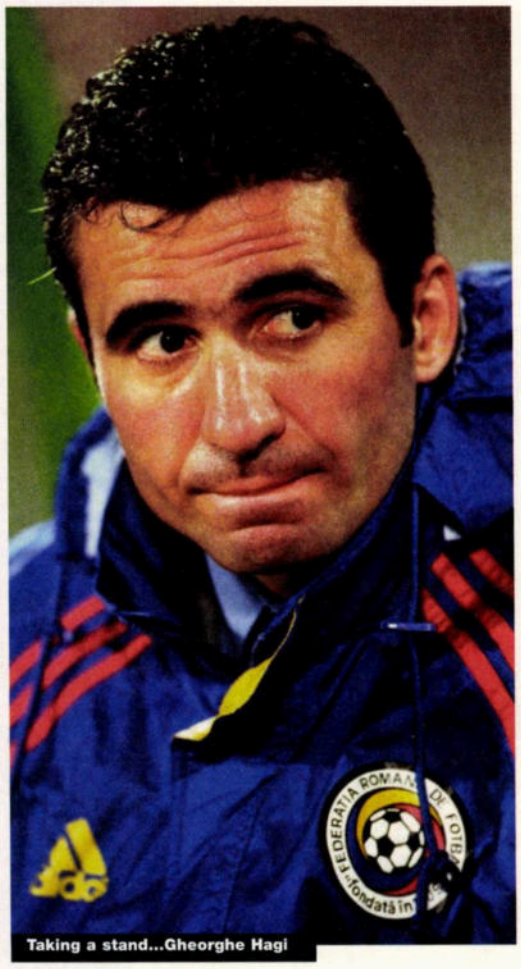
The former international telephoned federation president Mircea Sandu to inform him of his decision some 12 days after his team could only draw 1-1 at home to the Slovenes, following their 2-1 defeat in Ljubljana.

The problems on the field have been exacerbated by Hagi's inability to see eye to eye with certain members of the federation executive committee, some of whom are also club presidents, over the problem of corruption within the game in Romania.

Domestic football has been tainted by widespread malpractice in recent years and attempts to clean it up have foundered. In February, for example, the federation sacked former top referee Ion Craciunescu just a fortnight after he was appointed to crack down on dubious refereeing practices.

The federation (FRF) claimed Craciunescu's new rules for the appointment of referees "failed to comply with FRF regulations". However, Craciunescu said his dismissal reflected the "vested interests" of several club presidents. His view was openly backed by Hagi, then still playing in Turkey with Galatasaray, who, ironically in the light of recent events, vowed not to return to the Romanian game until there had been a major clean-up.

Hagi has now vowed to stay on in his homeland despite his failure with the national side, saying: "I will probably train a team from my country because I was born here. I will stay here like a thorn in the side of my enemies. I know some people don't want me, but I am clean, not like them."



Taking a stand...Gheorghe Hagi

Eyeing Italy...Ruslan Nigmatullin

RUSSIA

Lokomotiv on track to catch Spartak

LOKOMOTIV MOSCOW took the League runners-up spot for the second year running by beating champions Spartak 2-1 on the last day.

There is now the expectation that Lokomotiv can offer Spartak a real challenge for next year's title.

The club's international keeper, Ruslan Nigmatullin, voted Russia's Player of the Year, has signed a new one-year contract with Lokomotiv but is poised to move to Italy's Serie A.

Zenit St Petersburg finished third in the League, their highest ever position.

CSKA Moscow have been on a buying spree in recent weeks, belying their earlier incarnation as the Army team, who would recruit young players by utilising the Soviet Union's Compulsory Military Service Law. Now they offer the best salaries in Russia and have just bought in international defender Vyacheslav Dayev (Torpedo Moscow) and midfielder Rolan Gusev (Dinamo Moscow).

● Pavel Sadyrin, Russia's coach at the 1994 World Cup finals, has died of cancer at the age of 60. At club level, Sadyrin won the Soviet Union League twice, with Zenit Leningrad in 1984 and CSKA Moscow in 1991.

Victor Gusev

UKRAINE

Lobanovskyi carries the can

NATIONAL team coach Valerii Lobanovskyi was heavily criticised after Ukraine failed for the third time running to reach a major tournament finals through the play-off route.

His team drew 1-1 with Germany in Kyiv but were then comfortably beaten 4-1 in the return in Dortmund to miss out on next year's World Cup.

To the surprise of many observers, Lobanovskyi omitted the physically strong midfielders Andrii Husin and Serhii Popov from his line-up for the second leg, playing small and agile Dmitry Parfyonov and Hennadii Zubov in their place. As a result, Ukraine were outgunned by the Germans.

It was also felt Lobanovskyi failed to prepare his team psychologically, with his players apparently lacking the belief that they could win the most important match of their careers.

On the domestic scene, Eugeniy Kucherevskyi has been appointed as head coach of Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk, the club he led to the USSR championship in 1988. Kucherevskyi has most recently been in charge of Moscow side Torpedo-ZIL.

Oleg Zadernovsky

AUSTRIA

'B team' decision seals Baric's fate

AS EXPECTED, Austria parted company with their national coach Otto Baric following the team's 6-0 aggregate thumping by Turkey in the World Cup 2002 play-offs.

Few in Austria were startled by the wide margin of defeat against the Turks, given the team selection. Baric, who took charge in March 1999, decided to play with a virtual B team after blackballing the nine players who refused to fly to Israel for the final qualifying Group 7 match because of safety fears.

Nick Bidwell

CZECH REPUBLIC

Chovanec calls it a day

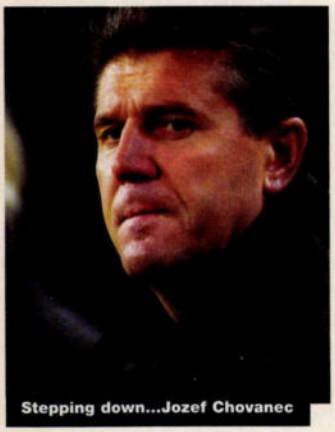
NATIONAL coach Jozef Chovanec handed in his resignation six days after the World Cup play-off defeat against Belgium, bringing to an end his reign of nearly four years.

Chovanec, who had been in charge of the *reprezentace* since January

1998, had come in for mounting criticism over his team selections as the qualifying campaign progressed.

He was also hampered by the under-performance and indiscipline of certain stars based abroad, and clearly believed his position was untenable after the team failed to reach the World Cup finals for the third successive time. Two 1-0 defeats – in Brussels and then Prague – signalled the end for the Czech Republic.

Banik Ostrava coach Jozef Jarabinsky became the immediate favourite to succeed Chovanec. The



Stepping down...Jozef Chovanec

vastly experienced 57-year-old, who coached Sparta Prague to five League titles, has taken Ostrava to a leading position in the table after they only narrowly avoided relegation last term.

In the title race, former runaway leaders Sparta Prague are now within range of two 'unfashionable' cross-town sides, Bohemians and Viktoria Zizkov. Indeed, it was Bohemians who brought Sparta's 10-match unbeaten run to an end with a 2-1 win in November.

Roy Kitson

POLAND

Pogon fans fear the worst

NEW club licence criteria being discussed by the FA have raised fears among Pogon Szczecin fans that their club will be relegated at the end of this season, despite the fact that they are in the championship play-offs.

In keeping with UEFA guidelines, the FA will issue licences for First Division teams next June based on their ability to fulfil certain financial and ground standard conditions. If they cannot, they will be relegated.

At present, Pogon are deep in debt and face bankruptcy, having lost the financial support of owners Mat Trade, a Turkish company.

The national team rounded off their highly successful year with a 0-0 friendly draw against Cameroon at the Lech stadium in Poznan.

Dariusz Kurowski

SLOVAKIA

Zilina top autumn rankings

UNHERALDED MSK Zilina clinched the 'autumn championship' title with a game to spare after beating struggling Tatran Presov 2-0 away.

However, the triumph was marred by controversy as the Presov president, Vladislav Sabol, was accused by Zilina coach Ladislav Jurkemik of punching him in the tunnel after the game.

The country was shocked by the tragic death of Under-21 player Juraj Kubesa, who fell from an eighth-floor window of a block of flats just hours after playing for his club, Kosice, against Inter Bratislava.

Roy Kitson

BELARUS

Belshina take first title

CUP holders Belshina Bobruisk added to this year's trophy haul by winning the League title for the first time.

Belshina have made impressive progress this year, since they finished only ninth in 2000. Coach Valerii Chetverik has vastly improved the team's defensive solidity and confidence. Key players include 35-year-old keeper Valerii Shantalosov, Belarus youth defender Alexander Shagoiko and forward Alexander Sednev.

Naftan and Vedrich-97 were relegated, with Torpedo Zhodino and Zvezda VA BDU taking their places.

International keeper Gennadiy Tumilovich has won the Player of the Year award, while Belarus boss Eduard Malofeyev has agreed to combine his national team duties with coaching Dinamo Minsk.

Oleg Zadernovsky

Pro-file Petr Cech

Towering teenage keeper making giant strides at Sparta

THE large strides made this term by teenage Sparta Prague keeper Petr Cech have meant he is now widely considered the best in his position to emerge from the Czech Republic since the great Ivo Viktor in the 1960s.

Cech, a 19-year-old who joined the champions from Chmel Blsany last summer, had been expected to play second fiddle to the experienced Jaromir Blazek this season. But coach Jaroslav Hrebik, no doubt swayed by Cech's exceptional work at the 2001 World Youth Cup in Argentina, plumped for the new boy.

It has proved an inspired decision. Cech, confident, great on crosses and a commanding figure at 1.97m (6ft 5in), has rarely looked susceptible. He kept no fewer than four clean sheets as Sparta saw off the challenge of Moscow Spartak and Feyenoord to impressively qualify for the second group phase of the Champions League, along with Bayern Munich, and he has been just as solid in the domestic championship. Indeed, Cech is already in the record books after going 902 minutes without conceding a League goal, surpassing the previous best mark of 770 set by Slovan Bratislava's Theodor Reimann 47 years ago.

"Although it was very nice to keep my goal intact for so long and I was really glad to reach this milestone, I've no time to celebrate," said Cech after breaking the record in Sparta's 6-0 win over Brno. "In any case it's not all down to me. Our defence has been playing so solidly and every member of the side is good at pressing and closing down. We are a strong unit.

"It's been a fantastic start to the season for me and of course the Champions League has been the highlight, especially when we managed to hold a great Bayern Munich side to a goalless draw at the Olympic stadium in my first game in the competition.

"Before the match, the Bayern players were giving us strange looks, as if they were thinking we had no chance. But when they tried to break us down, they discovered they couldn't."

Given Cech's current form, it seems only a matter of time before he establishes himself in his country's senior national team. He received his first call-up to the squad for the World Cup qualifier against Bulgaria in October, and it bodes well for him that his main rivals are not exactly firing on all cylinders. Current first-choice Pavel Srnicek has spent most of this season on the bench at Brescia, while Ladoslav Maier is struggling for his best form in a poor Rapid Wien team.

Petr Cech is the future of Czech goalkeeping.

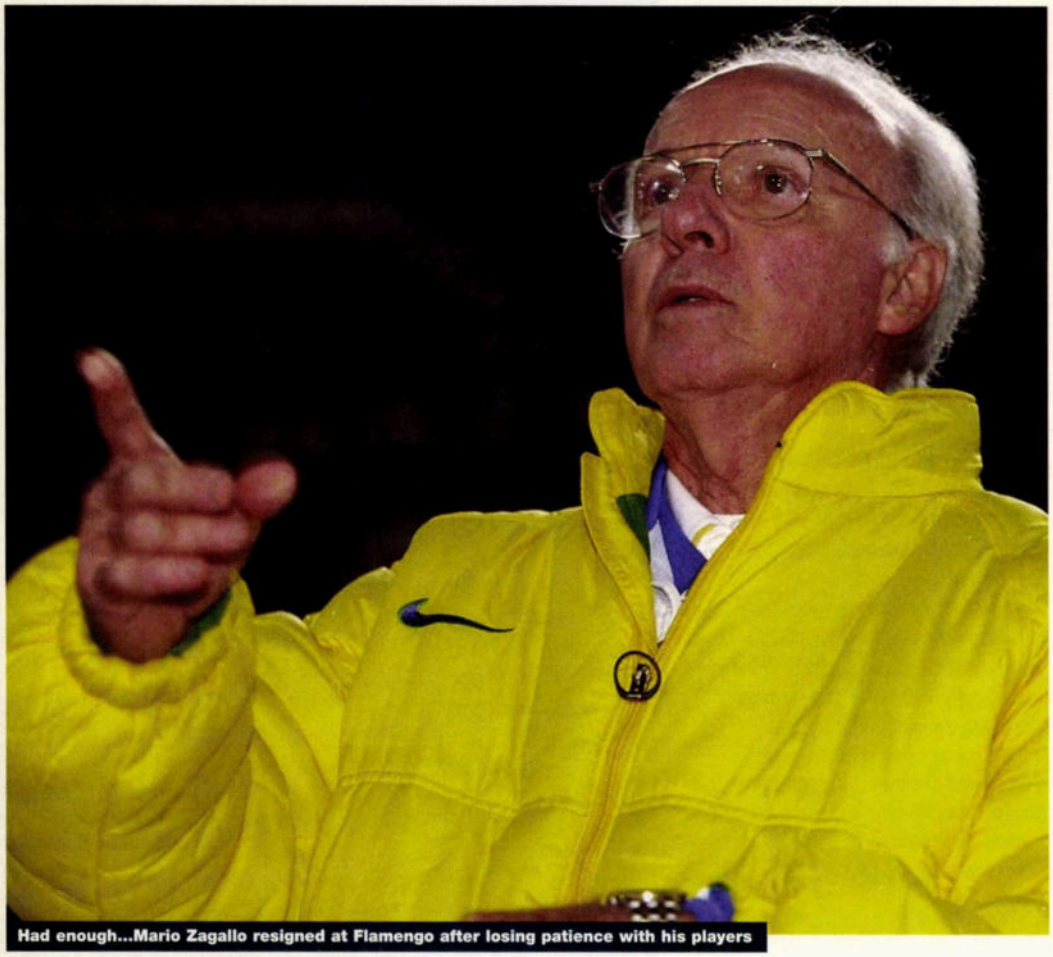
Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Sparta Prague
Country Czech Republic
Born May 20, 1982, in Plzen
Previous clubs Viktoria Plzen, Chmel Blsany

Old Wolf slinks off into retirement

Brian Homewood on the sad end to Zagallo's glorious career



Had enough...Mario Zagallo resigned at Flamengo after losing patience with his players

BRAZIL

THE Old Wolf has finally called it a day. Mario Zagallo, the only man to win the World Cup four times, has resigned as coach of Flamengo and announced he is ending a playing and coaching career that began in 1948, when he made his debut for America.

The 70-year-old threw in the towel as Flamengo, the country's most popular club, were languishing in the Brazilian championship relegation zone. In an ironic twist, he was replaced by Carlos Alberto Torres, captain of the 1970 World Cup-winning team that Zagallo coached.

It was a somewhat unfitting end to a career that even Zagallo's critics – and there are many, from those who consider his tactics too negative to those who object to his tendency to brag about his achievements – admit will never be matched. Zagallo won the World Cup as a player in 1958 and 1962, coach in 1970 and assistant coach in 1994. He led Brazil to fourth place in 1974 and second in 1998, after returning for another stint at the age of 67.

Zagallo once said: "I didn't play with Pele, he played with me." But his victorious run ended at Flamengo, as he lost control of a bickering squad in which the main protagonists were Yugoslav midfielder Dejan Petkovic and Brazilian international striker Edilson. As the battle of egos reached its peak, the pair avoided each other in goal celebrations and insulted each other on the pitch. Finally, Petkovic refused to autograph a shirt for a Flamengo fan because it had Edilson's photo stamped on it and, the next day, Edilson trod on Petkovic in a practice game.

Zagallo, who received no backing in his attempts to stop the wrangling, resigned, making the decision as he drove to training two days before a match against Internacional – coached by Carlos Alberto Parreira, the man to whom Zagallo was assistant in 1994.

"I thought, should I or shouldn't I?" he said, adding that not even his wife had known of the impending decision. Zagallo admitted he had lost his appetite for battle, not surprisingly after putting up with so much nonsense. "I'm not one to run away from a fight but I was feeling worn out."

Even his lucky 13 – Zagallo was married on the 13th, his car registration number ends in 13 and he wears a number 13 shirt on the touchline – seemed to go against him. He left after 13 months in charge of Flamengo and one day after they had suffered their 13th defeat in the Brazilian championship. Flamengo then won their first game under Carlos Alberto, to move out of the four relegation places with two rounds to go.

They eventually finished fifth from bottom, but even if they had finished in the relegation zone, they would have been very unlikely to go down. Few doubted that if the worst had happened, Flamengo would simply have attempted to emulate Gremio, Fluminense, Botafogo and Atletico Paranaense before them and get the rules changed to allow them to stay up. Or alternatively, the clubs could simply have scrapped the Brazilian championship altogether and started afresh with a new tournament.

Flamengo were not the only team hit by internal squabbling. Palmeiras players were also at each others' throats after losing seven games on the trot, five of them after Marcio Araujo had replaced the sacked Celso Roth.

Palmeiras were fifth in the table when Roth was dismissed because the team was allegedly playing badly. Under his successor, they plummeted to 12th and missed out on a quarter-final place which at one stage had seemed a certainty.

Once Roth – a former assistant to Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari and an exponent of the same physical style of play – had left, the egos quickly flew out of control. Goalkeeper Marcos complained that the team were showing a lack of effort, while the rest of the players were telling him to shut up. The low point was the 6-2 home defeat by Fluminense, interrupted by a 10-minute first-half brawl and played against a backdrop of protesting fans.

"Unfortunately, I've received more recognition after leaving than I did when I was at the club," said Roth. "What happened to me should serve as a reflection for Brazilian football."

Defending champions Vasco da Gama and Pele's former club Santos were among other teams to miss out on the last eight. Vasco's failure came amid complaints that players had not been paid for three months, with some of the younger squad members complaining that they could not even afford the bus fare to get to training.

None of this affected veteran striker Romario, however, who once again dominated the championship scorers' list, along with Ponte Preta's Washington.

Santos's biggest problem appeared to be their supporters. A mob of around 40 burst into the club's training ground to protest following a home defeat by Corinthians. Carrying banners that demanded the sacking of coach Cabralzinho and several players, they let off firecrackers as they forced their way through the gates of the King Pele training centre. Some fans managed to get on to the training field itself, where they were chased by security guards.

"The fans who do this are not faithful," said striker Viola, one of the main targets of the protest.

Sao Caetano, a Second Division team last year, topped the table by eight clear points, and were joined in the quarter-finals by Atletico Paranaense, Fluminense, Atletico Mineiro, Gremio, Ponte Preta, Sao Paulo and Bahia.

The 28-team first stage has meant teams playing 27 games in a three-month period. The fixture list has been so congested that full domestic programmes have gone ahead on days when Brazil have been playing World Cup qualifiers.

Carry on scoring...Romario

Through – at last!

THE suffering is over, the unthinkable has been avoided and Brazil have finally qualified for the World Cup, maintaining their unique record of having played at every tournament. A 3-0 win over Venezuela in their last game, achieved in dubious circumstances, did the trick, quickly rubbing out memories of the previous week's debacle against the Five Dwarfs of Bolivia.

Brazil could have qualified with a game to spare by winning in La Paz but instead crashed to a 3-1 defeat, despite taking a first-half lead through Edilson.

A blunder by Flamengo defender Juan allowed Lider Paz to equalise before half-time, and in the second half goalkeeper Marcos misjudged the flight of the ball in the rarified air and allowed a Julio Baldivieso free-kick to loop over his head into the net. Baldivieso added the third goal from a penalty.

Desperation took over the Brazilian bench as the Bolivians ran rings about their defence. Just before half-time coach Luiz Felipe Scolari was overheard to comment: "They've got five little dwarfs up front and they're tearing our defence apart." Three minutes into the second half, television cameras caught technical director Antonio Lopes praying on the bench as Bolivia attacked.

But all was sweetness and light one week later. Two goals in the first 20 minutes from Luizao, who has just recovered from a serious knee injury, and a third from Rivaldo before half-time quickly dispensed with Venezuela.

It could have been very different, however. Brazil's crucial first goal, which allowed them to settle their nerves, followed a clear foul by Edilson on a defender which was ignored by Argentinian referee Daniel Gimenez. He also allowed Emerson Ferreira to butcher his way through the Venezuelan midfield, committing at least half a dozen fouls before finally being cautioned. Meanwhile, Edilson should have been sent off in less than half an hour for a tackle from behind after he had already been booked.

These details did not mute Brazil's celebrations in the dressing-room and on the flight home, but the media reaction was sceptical. Numerous questions still remain. The sports daily *Lance* pointed out that Brazil's qualification should not be allowed to hide the desperate need for change in the way the sport is run. It even called for federation president Ricardo Teixeira to resign in what it said would be "an act of greatness".

During the qualifying campaign, the federation (CBF) lost count of the yellow card tally, misread FIFA rules about the release of players from European clubs and picked players who were already injured. Bayern Munich striker Giovane Elber was called up to face Bolivia several days after being injured in a Bundesliga match, and when Bayern tried to warn Brazil, the CBF lost the fax. Then the CBF insisted that Elber travel to Brazil simply to be examined by one of its doctors.

Place booked...Brazil beat Venezuela to make the finals

After the Bolivia game, the CBF took three days to realise that the yellow card picked up by Cafu was his second, meaning he could not face Venezuela. Brazil's build-up for several games was hampered by a shortage of players because the CBF got confused over arrival dates.

On the playing side, Scolari will come under huge pressure to change his ultra-defensive tactics – three central defenders, two full-backs and two defensive midfielders – with something a bit more Brazilian. Then there is the question of Rivaldo – who has surely proved by now that he is a club player but not a national team one – and Romario. The 35-year-old has been left out since the Uruguay game in early July. But he remains the most gifted striker in the country.

Finally, there's the small matter of Ronaldo. Will he be fit in time for the World Cup? If he is, will Brazilians look to him as the team's saviour? And if they do, can he deliver?

Brian Homewood

Racing near certainties

A draw against River put the opening title within reach, writes Eric Weil

ARGENTINA

RACING CLUB, who almost went bankrupt last year, remarkably put one hand on the opening championship trophy when holding closest challengers River Plate to a 1-1 draw in the 16th round of matches.

Racing's Colombian defender Gerardo Bedoya cancelled out Esteban Cambiasso's first-half goal with just four minutes remaining to salvage a point for his side and keep them five points clear of River with just three games remaining.

If Racing do go on to win the championship it will be an astonishing achievement, given that they are still heavily in debt and have no true stars among their playing squad.

River may be the better side but have shown far less consistency than Racing's battlers. They have also undoubtedly suffered from internal problems ahead of the club's presidential elections.

High-riding Belgrano Cordoba were still in danger of relegation, which is decided by averaging out the points gained over the past three seasons. With three games to play, they were in one of the two relegation berths, though their good run of form had put them on course to escape. However, the club are deep in financial crisis and were recently declared bankrupt.

Wounded...the policeman shot during the Rosario derby is carried away

Hooliganism reached new heights when a policeman was seriously injured by a shot fired from the stands during a violent Rosario derby between Central and Newell's Old Boys.

On the field, 75 players were sent off – bringing automatic suspensions – while 729 yellow cards have been shown during the first 150 games of the opening tournament.

Suspensions have also been handed out to 21 referees because of serious mistakes made during opening championship games. Horacio Elizondo has been the most notable official to be punished, after he failed to see a Colon Santa Fe striker elbow River Plate keeper Angel Comizzo to the ground, allowing his team to score the only goal of the game.

● Juan Carlos Lorenzo, who coached Argentina's national team at the 1962 and 1966 World Cups and Boca Juniors in the late 1970s, has died aged 79.

Lorenzo won the Libertadores Cup with Boca, whom he also played for, in 1977 and 1978, as well as the World Club Cup in the latter year. He coached 12 other clubs, including Lazio, Roma and Atletico Madrid, in a near-30 year career that also took him to Colombia.

He was already well-travelled as a player having had spells at the likes of Nancy in France, Italy's Sampdoria and Atletico Madrid after leaving Boca.

South American round-up

COLOMBIA: Tulua and Once Caldas, two of the country's smaller top-flight clubs, have taken this season's League honours, winning the opening and closing championships respectively.

Once Caldas also gained most points in the combined table and are now engaged in the final play-off rounds for the season's overall title with the seven next best teams – Deportivo Cali, America, Tolima, Millonarios, Tulua, Independiente Santa Fe and Independiente Medellin.

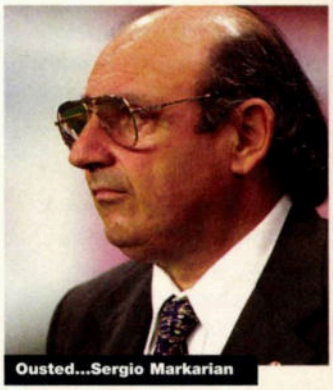
PERU: Players at champions Universitario have gone on strike because they are owed three months' salary. The club say the shortfall has arisen because they are still owed money for transfers.

Universitario's 1-1 draw with Alianza in the Lima derby did neither club any favours, both losing ground on closing championship leaders Estudiantes and Cienciano.

BOLIVIA: Jose Alfredo Castillo, an 18-year-old with Oriente Petrolero, scored two League hat-tricks in a month, no doubt inspired by his coach, Victor Hugo Antelo, the world's top League scorer.

CHILE: Unsung Santiago Wanderers were poised to win the title, leading by three points with one game to go.

Eric Weil



Ousted...Sergio Markarian

PARAGUAY

Markarian makes way

SERGIO MARKARIAN, the feisty national team coach who had recently steered Paraguay to their second successive World Cup finals, was unceremoniously sacked the day after his team lost 4-0 at home to Colombia in the final round of qualifiers.

It was the country's second defeat in a week, having been beaten 3-1 away by Venezuela six days earlier.

Paraguay had been assured of one of South America's four automatic finals berths the day before the Venezuela game. However, the subsequent defeats tarnished the team's achievement, as they slipped from second place to fourth in the final table and lost their standing as the side to have conceded fewest goals in the South American section.

In the League, Cerro Porteno were crowned champions for the 25th time by winning the closing championship Final after also taking the opening tournament. However, they won their latest title only on penalties after a 4-4 aggregate draw with Guarani.

Aldo Bobadilla, Jose Luis Chilavert's international understudy, was the hero of the hour, saving Guarani's seventh spot-kick to give his side a 7-6 shoot-out victory.

Cerro's top players were international midfielder Guido Alvarenga, leading scorer Francisco Ferreira, Brazilian midfielder Jose Pedro Santos and Japan's Nozomi Hiroyama.

Luis Cubilla, dismissed by Olimpia earlier this year, has been appointed as Libertad's new coach.

Eric Weil

Anschutz to the rescue?

Paul Gardner on the latest franchise acquisition by the media-shy billionaire

Net asset...Adolfo Valencia scores for MetroStars, whose franchise is the latest to be bought by Phil Anschutz

USA

NOT a good moment, this, for Major League Soccer. Metromedia, the multi-billion dollar company that owns the MetroStars, one of the League's original investors, has pulled out. It is the first defection in the League's six-year history and spoils what has always been presented as one of the League's major achievements: stability of ownership.

Not that MLS treated Metromedia's exit as a setback. The press release swept quickly past that aspect and revealed the good news: the MetroStars franchise has been acquired by the AEG Group, owned by billionaire Philip Anschutz.

A few years back hardly anyone in soccer had heard of Anschutz. Now it is his money that is keeping MLS alive. By taking over the running of the MetroStars, AEG now owns five League clubs – Los Angeles Galaxy, Colorado Rapids, Chicago Fire and DC United are the others.

So Anschutz must be a soccer fanatic, right? Seems so, though as he never speaks to the press, it's difficult to find out exactly what his motivation is in becoming such a controlling force in MLS. A recent article on Anschutz in the *New York Times* described him as "the media-shy Denver billionaire" and the 16th richest man in the USA. Apparently, Anschutz likes the idea of getting in early on new ideas. He sees great growth potential in soccer so he's spending his money while others are reluctant to have anything to do with the professional game.

In Carson, near Los Angeles, he is spending £70million to build a stadium and training complex for Galaxy, while AEG stated soon after the MetroStars takeover that they would build a stadium in the New York area for the club to use.

AEG's enthusiasm for building stadiums is not entirely, or even primarily, based on soccer. AEG stands for Anschutz Entertainment Group, and the entertainment part of it includes rock stars like Celine Dion and Britney Spears. Medium-sized stadiums make perfect venues for rock concerts.

AEG, with five out of the 12 MLS clubs, is now the controlling force in the League. This means that Kevin Payne, who exercises AEG's authority from his position as head of AEG Soccer, surely already has the most powerful voice in MLS, stronger even than that of Commissioner Don Garber.

The group's influence would be even more pronounced if, as has been mooted, financially troubled MLS contracts by reverting to a 10-club League. The obvious candidates to receive the chop would be two of the three franchises already operated by the League – Dallas, Tampa Bay and San Jose – because no other owners have been forthcoming.

Viewing Anschutz as a power-hungry mogul who wants to take over the League is a distortion of what has happened here. For the past six years MLS has been losing £700,000 a week. The only owner willing to put up with persistent, large losses and to *increase* his stake in the League is Phil Anschutz. Far from being the League's devourer, he looks like its saviour.

MEXICO

Pachuca in the mix again

PACHUCA, the club with whom current national team coach Javier Aguirre made his name, won through to the Winter League play-offs to give themselves a great chance to improve upon their runners-up finish in the Summer championship.

Aguirre took over the provincial club as a virtual coaching novice in September 1998, but had soon put the newly promoted side on the road to success. Just over a year after taking the helm, he led them to their first League title since 1920, and once again steered them to the title decider this May, when they narrowly lost out to Santos Laguna, 4-3 on aggregate.

It was then that Aguirre received the SOS call from the Mexican federation and, as national coach, turned the country's World Cup qualification campaign around.

Pachuca made it through to the last eight of the Winter championship by finishing a comfortable second in Group 4, to Tigres, the surprise side of the League stage.

A year ago they lured Brazilian coach Ricardo 'Tuca' Ferreti to the club from Guadalajara, whom he had led to their first title in a decade in 1997. Now, after two years at Tigres, Ferreti has turned the team into consistent winners, and they finished with the highest points total of any side.

Toluca, who topped Group 2, began the play-off stage as one of the favourites to win the title, along with Group 1 winners Cruz Azul.

Disappointments of the Winter League stage were Summer champions Santos, the 2000 Winter winners Atletico Morelia and, once again, Atlas and America. However, Santos did scrape into the play-offs despite having to go without top scorer Jared Borgetti for long periods because of national team duty and injury.

The other qualifiers were early pacesetters Guadalajara, who took only one point from their last five games, and the Group 3 top two, Necaxa and Atlante.

Carlos Ramirez

Al Ahly's kids upset the odds

Mark Gleeson reviews the closing stages of Africa's club competitions

ONLY days before Egypt's Al Ahly sensationally squeezed through to the Final of the African Champions League, coach Manuel Jose was deriding his team's potential.

A series of frustrating results for the Cairo club led the Portuguese coach to call his team immature and in desperate need of reinforcement. Yet the youthful side won through to the Final of Africa's top club prize for the first time in 14 years, to meet South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns.

Al Ahly's semi-final win over Esperance upset the formbook, since the Tunisians had been beaten finalists in the last two Champions League Finals. Indeed, Esperance looked to be on their way to making it a hat-trick of Finals after achieving a goalless draw in the first leg in Cairo. They then took an early lead in the return, Brazilian Reinaldo scoring after three minutes.

But the heroic goalkeeping of Essam Al-Hadari kept Ahly in the game at Tunis's El Menzah stadium, and with 14 minutes left Said Abdelhafiz, returning after a lengthy knee injury, chipped the Esperance goalkeeper from 25 yards. The 1-1 draw was enough to secure Al Ahly's passage to the Final on away goals.

It is a major achievement for the team's youngsters, five of whom played at this year's World Youth Cup in Argentina, where the Egyptians finished third.

Esperance responded to defeat by sacking Algerian coach Ali Fergani. His replacement is Michel Decastle, most recently with Ivory Coast's ASEC Abidjan.

Sundowns beat Petro Atletico of Angola on penalties to ensure their first Final appearance. But they only just squeezed through after Petro threatened to overturn a two-goal deficit and run away with the tie in the second leg in Luanda.

Sundowns won 2-0 in the first leg in Pretoria, where the winning margin should have been far greater, but were on the receiving end in the return at Luanda's ramshackle Cidadela stadium.

Kapela Mbiavanga scored twice to level the aggregate scoreline, but Sundowns clinched the tie in a penalty shoot-out. They converted all five of their kicks, while Petro's first effort, from Zico, was saved by John Tlale, although he clearly left his line well before the kick was taken.

Sundowns have an experienced side with a capable defence and a midfield with plenty of skill and guile, particularly in Bennett Mnguni and the Zambian international Gift Kampamba. But they have been woeful in attack since Nigerian Raphael Chukwu left for Bari in Italy. Sundowns scored a total of only four goals in the six group games and two semi-final ties.

Kabylie retain crown in controversial Final

JS KABYLIE of Algeria held on to their CAF Cup crown in controversial circumstances, winning the second leg of the Final against Tunisia's Etoile Sahel with a disputed goal to take the title on away goals.

Kabylie's Brahim Zafour knocked the opposing goalkeeper over and headed the ball out of his hands to score the only goal of his side's home leg win, which followed their 2-1 defeat in Sousse two weeks earlier.

Etoile, bidding for a record third title, had curiously fired coach, Khaled Ben Sassi, just five days before that opening match. And their slender lead proved insufficient to survive a brutal return match, watched by a crowd estimated at 80,000.

Astonishingly, Zafour's goal was allowed to stand by Malian referee Moussa Kanoute, officiating his last international game but obviously out of his depth.

The two north African sides battled tooth and nail in a match of countless unpunished fouls. It ended in a predictable shambles, with Abdelkader Keita, Etoile's Ivorian international, viciously butting Kabylie defender Nourredine Drioueche after first getting a 'Glaswegian kiss' himself. Keita was sent off, initiating an attack by the Tunisians on the referee, who needed police to protect him.

Keita, who scored both Etoile's goals in the first leg, was repeatedly fouled and manhandled in the return but offered little protection by Kanoute.

Chiefs break their duck

KAIZER CHIEFS translated their all-conquering form in South African cup competition into a first trophy on the continental stage with victory in the Cup-winners Cup.

The glamour side from Johannesburg have won over 50 domestic cup titles in the past three decades, but had never previously progressed beyond the opening two rounds in African competition.

Chiefs' achievement was all the more notable because they played the latter stages with only a threadbare squad after coach Muhsin Ertugral's ruthless clear-out.

The first leg of the Final, against Inter Clube of Angola, was played in Luanda, with Chiefs' Zimbabwean international Luke Jukelile profiting from a goalkeeping error to put the South Africans ahead.

Inter, the police team who were playing Second Division football just three years ago, equalised from a blistering free-kick by Congolese import Pathy Esele Nsengo.

In the second leg, Nsengo was expected to be the danger man as Chiefs played host at Ellis Park. But the threat never came, as the makeshift Chiefs ran the midfield, dominated the flanks, though consistently hashed up their final touch.

They had nothing to show for their dominance until awarded a soft penalty in injury time, which Patrick Mabedi converted to give his side a 2-1 aggregate triumph.

Hands-on management...JS Kabylie players celebrate after their controversial CAF Cup victory over Etoile Sahel

Youth wins the day for Senegal

SENEGAL'S Under-20 team won the Amilcar Cabral Cup against senior opposition from six other nations, beating Gambia 3-1 in the Final.

The annual tournament, for far west African countries, was played in Mali and served as a dress rehearsal for three of the country's African Nations Cup venues – Segou, Sikasso and the capital, Bamako.

Senegal, who sent their juniors because the senior squad had accepted an invitation to visit South Korea for a friendly international, had the player of the tournament in Ousmane Ndoye. He scored twice in the Final, with the other goal coming from Aboulaye Keita before Oumar Samba grabbed Gambia's late consolation.

Benin, outside the participating region, were invited to the tournament because of the continuing absence of Guinea, still banned from international competition by FIFA, and the withdrawal of Sierra Leone.

Guinea-Bissau's Fernando Co finished as tournament top scorer with five goals.

Mark Gleeson

Round-up

Lions king...Humberto Coelho

Coelho stays on

MOROCCO coach Humberto Coelho has turned down an offer to take Saudi Arabia to next year's World Cup. He has opted to remain in charge of the Atlas Lions, who narrowly missed out on Korea/Japan but will play in the Nations Cup finals in Mali in January.

Ukrainian coach Sebastianko Youiri has been fired by champions Raja Casablanca after the team made a slow start to the new season. Raja lay in seventh place, nine points behind leaders Wydad Casablanca.

Elsewhere in **NORTH AFRICA,** Esperance of **TUNISIA** have signed Brazil-born Tunisian international Clayton from Bastia in France, with veteran goalkeeper and captain Chokri El Ouaer moving to Genoa in Italy's Serie B.

Former Tunisian international Nisar Trabelsi was arrested at his home in Belgium as part of the wave of detentions that followed the September attacks in the United States.

Armando Costa, a Portuguese immigrant from Canada, is new coach of the **LIBYAN** national team, who are using their Under-20 side in full internationals to prepare them for the 2004 Nations Cup qualifiers.

Djamel Bouguerroumi, a 26-year-old player with First Division RC Kouba, was among the 650 people to die in **ALGERIA'S** recent flooding.

EAST AFRICA

Prince Louis FC were runaway champions in **BURUNDI**, finishing 10 points clear of Elite FC, while SC Villa won a record 13th **UGANDAN** League title under the guidance of English coach Geoff Hudson.

Saint Louisienne became **REUNION** champions for the 14th time, but only on goal difference from Saint Pierroise.

Simba SC finished three points ahead of Mtibwa Sugar to take their first **TANZANIAN** League title for six years. They were steered to glory by former Kenyan goalkeeper James Siang'a, who was sacked as his country's coach last year.

KENYAN officials have banned matches at the main stadium, the Moi International Sports Centre in Nairobi, after a wave of rioting, including an attack on referee Juma Mwarandani that put him in hospital for several days. The official was attacked by fans of AFC Leopards after awarding opponents Mathare United a controversial and decisive goal in a League match.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Former **MALAWI** coach Mathias Mwenda has died from pneumonia, aged 47. Mwenda also took charge of South African Premier League clubs Umtata Bush Bucks and Dynamos, whom he left two years ago.

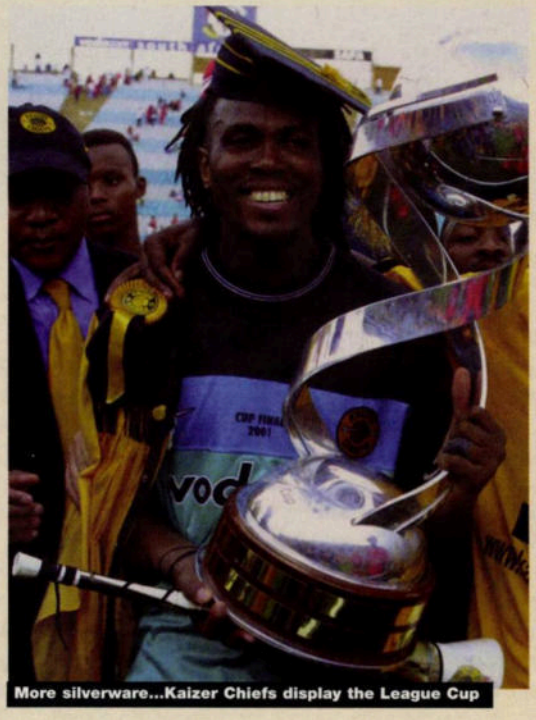
Rusten Mogane has been appointed to lead **NAMIBIA'S** national team, three years after last holding the post. He replaces Smithley Englebrecht, who was unable to halt the Brave Warriors' slide in form.

Nkana FC won the **ZAMBIAN** Premier Division, finishing three points clear of Zanaco. Power Dynamos won the Mosi Cup, a John Lomani goal proving enough to beat Kabwe Warriors in the Final in Lusaka. Zambia striker Harry Milanzi has returned for a second spell in Mexico, joining Atlantico Zamora from Nchanga Rangers.

Sonangol Namibie won the **ANGOLAN** Cup with a 3-2 victory over Sporting Cabinda, who have just won promotion to the Girabola.

Angolan internationals Isaac (Primeiro Agosto), Joni and Yamba Asha (AS Aviacao) have all moved to Europe, Isaac going to Rio Ave in the Portuguese Second Division and Joni and Yamba Asha joining Badajoz in Spain.

SOUTH AFRICA'S Kaizer Chiefs won their second domestic trophy of the season when crushing Jomo Cosmos 5-0 in the League Cup Final before a 75,000 crowd at Johannesburg's Soccer City.



More silverware...Kaizer Chiefs display the League Cup

WEST AFRICA

ASEC Abidjan retained the **IVORY COAST** championship with ease, finishing 10 points ahead of surprise package Satellite. However, ASEC's failure in the Champions League cost Swiss coach Michel Decastle his job.

Idrissa Traore, former coach of Burkina Faso, has taken over. Traore, most recently in charge of Djoliba in Mali, has coached twice before in Ivory Coast and won the Cup with SC Gagnoa in 1989.

Hearts of Oak secured a fifth successive title in **GHANA** with two matches to play after closest rivals Asante Kotoko unexpectedly lost at Dawu Youngstars.

NIGERIA'S Julius Berger appointed Godwin Uwua as their new coach after firing Tunde Disu following their failure to reach the Champions League semi-finals.

Mark Gleeson

Antlers earn showdown with Jubilo

Mike Plastow and Yumiko Nagae on the Second Stage finale

In the mix...Italy's goalscorer Cristiano Doni takes possession ahead of Japan's Junichi Inamoto in the Saitama friendly

JAPAN

KASHIMA ANTLERS wrapped up the J.League's Second Stage with a game to spare thanks to a 4-0 home win over struggling Tokyo Verdy 1969.

The victory set up a two-leg showdown against First Stage winners Jubilo Iwata for the overall title.

The two clubs have dominated Japanese football in recent years, with Antlers having won the overall title in 1996, 1998 and 2000, and Jubilo in 1997 and 1999.

Jubilo had by far the best season overall, winning 71 points and losing only three games during the two stages combined, compared with 54 points and 10 losses for Antlers, last year's treble winners. Jubilo also beat Antlers twice in the League, but the J.League format means they have to prove themselves again in the championship play-off.

Cerezo Osaka were relegated long before the season ended, but the other relegation spot went all the way to the line with Verdy, Yokohama F Marinos and Avispa Fukuoka still in danger on the final day. In the end it was Avispa who made the drop after losing 3-2 to Gamba Osaka, despite leading twice and facing opponents who had had two men sent off during the first half. Kyoto Purple Sanga and Vegalta Sendai were promoted from Division Two.

Meanwhile, Edmundo was inspiring Tokyo Verdy 1969 to a remarkable escape act with a solid 1-0 win in the derby against FC Tokyo. A month earlier, Verdy had looked near certain relegation candidates, but after the arrival of the Brazilian forward they won three and drew one of their remaining five games to secure their First Division status.

Edmundo may have scored only twice, but his presence proved crucial to Verdy's survival. "When I came here, it was a very hard time for the team, and I've only been thinking of winning from game to game," said the former Cruzeiro man. "They have all been hard games, and we won through team effort. It wasn't only me. If the club want me, I'd love to fight for the title with Verdy next year."

On the international front, Japan coach Philippe Troussier declared that his team were "ready for the World Cup right now" after the co-hosts secured a confident 1-1 draw with Italy at the new Saitama stadium. "I have my 28-member group, and the question today was whether we'd see the results of our three years' work. We did. I'm highly satisfied. This team is mature, experienced and able to maintain its level whoever comes in."

Atsushi Yanagisawa put Japan ahead with a sensational 10th-minute first-time strike from a pinpoint cross from Junichi Inamoto. The brisk Japanese attack kept Italy rattled for the rest of the half and the visitors were, in the end, well content to finish with honours shared, thanks to Cristiano Doni's 53rd-minute equaliser.

"Japan are fast, rhythmical and aggressive," said Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni. "Their technique is good. They gave us a lot of trouble and we have learned a lot from this game."

Saitama, with a capacity of 63,700, is now the country's largest specialist football stadium and will host both Japan's opening World Cup game and one of the semi-finals.

SAUDI ARABIA

Al-Johar holds on

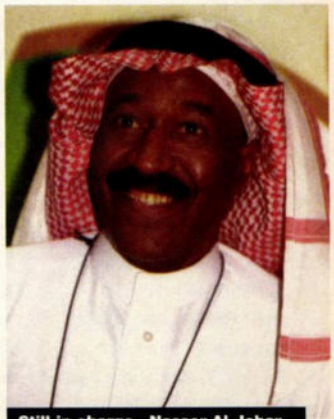
NASSER AL-JOHAR, who guided Saudi Arabia to their third successive World Cup finals, looks set to retain his position at the helm – at least until after the conclusion of the Gulf Cup in Riyadh in January.

Al-Johar, who took over from Slobodan Santrac after just two games of the final phase of Asia's World Cup qualifying tournament, had been expected to be replaced by a more experienced foreign coach ahead of next year's finals. But the Saudi federation surprisingly said they would stand behind the man who had also taken the nation to the Final of 2000's Asian Cup. That was another rescue act, Al-Johar replacing Milan Macala after Saudi Arabia had lost their opening group game, 4-1 to Japan.

But while the federation has said Al-Johar will lead the team to Korea/Japan, that could all change if the Saudis do not perform well at the Gulf Cup, a tournament for the six Gulf Co-operation Council members – the others are Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

In domestic football, Ossie Ardiles has been replaced as head coach of Al Ittihad, despite leading them to the top of the League. The Argentinian, who previously had spells at Shimizu S-Pulse and Yokohama F Marinos in Japan, was under threat even before the season kicked off after the club's poor showing in a series of friendlies.

Michael Church



Still in charge...Nasser Al-Johar

HONG KONG

Pro League set to end

AFTER several years of declining standards and spectator numbers, the Hong Kong FA has finally faced reality and accepted that the professional days of the local League are numbered.

Last year attendances dropped by over 40 per cent, while the withdrawal of two of the top clubs – Yee Hope and Instant-Dict – merely accelerated already dropping standards.

Competition from live TV coverage of European football has proven to be too much for the League, which was Asia's first professional set-up when established in the late-1960s.

A move to semi-professional status is now on the cards, as is a link-up to the Chinese League, a development that has been resisted in recent years despite the lucrative financial opportunities it offers. One proposal is that the junior team of one of China's leading clubs, who play in China's lower divisions, would stage their home games in Hong Kong.

"There is virtually no future for Hong Kong players in the domestic League," said Hong Kong FA chairman Martin Hong. "One plan is to target a place [for a Hong Kong side] in the Chinese B Division or even A Division. The Chinese market is so big.

"The likely scenario is that the domestic League will become semi-professional, with the top players, or even the top teams, representing Hong Kong in the Chinese League.

"Two mainland sides [champions Dalian and Qingdao] are interested in moving the home games of their junior side to Hong Kong because it's a trend for Chinese B Division teams to seek alternative home grounds, especially if the club have a team in Division A."

However, the proposal that Hong Kong's League should go semi-pro has met with opposition. "I will stop investing if the FA downgrades the League to a semi-professional one," said Koon Wing-yee, owner of the Happy Valley club. "I think no one will invest then because who's going to watch our games?"

Michael Church

Round-up

ASIA

QATAR have fired Brazilian Paulo Campos as national team coach, replacing him with Pierre Lechantre. The Frenchman led Cameroon to the 2000 African Nations Cup and the country's Under-23 side to Olympic gold later that year.

A golden goal by Issa Juma gave Dubai club Al Nasr victory over Al Ahli in the Final of the **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** FA Cup.

UAE side Al Shabab have signed Uzbekistan midfielder Mirdjalal Kassymov for £250,000.

Singapore Armed Forces will not be retaining **THAI** international striker Kiatisuk Senamaung next season, while captain Nazri Nasir has decided to quit the three-times League champions.

Former Charlton Athletic midfielder and **IRANIAN** international Karim Bagheri has signed for Qatar's Al Sadd.

A goal by Kim Eun-jung gave Taejon Citizen a 1-0 win over Pohang Steelers in the **SOUTH KOREAN** FA Cup Final.

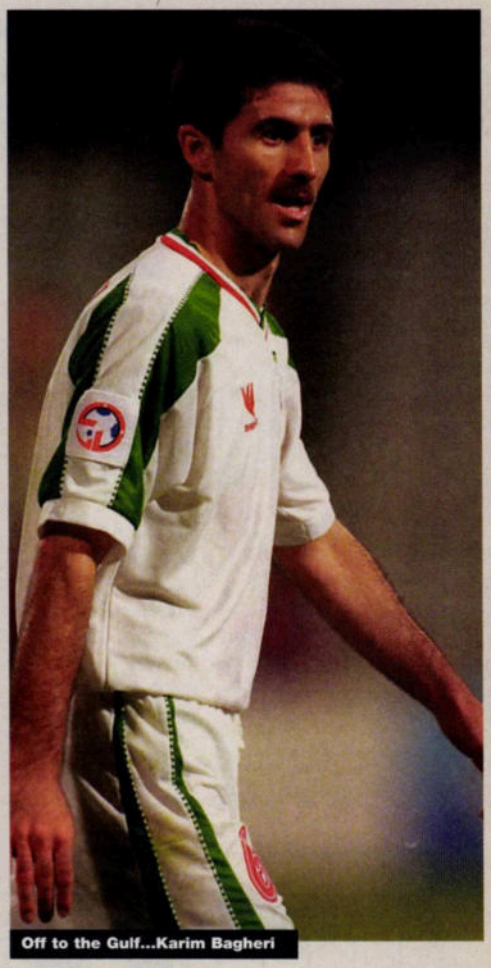
The **CHINESE** FA has punished five Second Division clubs for match-fixing and handed a year's ban to more than 50 players who took part in the rigged games. One of the censured clubs, Changchun, have had their promotion annulled, while another, Mianyang, have been demoted.

Top division side Shanghai Shenhua are on the trail of Korean coaching duo Cha Bum-kun and Huh Jung-moo as they look to replace Yugoslav Peter Kovacik. The move came with Dalian Shide almost certain to win the title.

An Abdul Hakkim hat-trick secured **INDIA'S** Santosh Trophy for his Kerala State side, as they overcame a strong Goa team 3-2 after extra time in the Final.

Calcutta's Mohun Bagan retained the Governor's Gold Cup by outclassing Bangladesh's Arambagh Krira Chakra 4-0 in the title clash.

Michael Church, Azam Mahmood, Zheng Ming & G C Das



Off to the Gulf...Karim Bagheri

OCEANIA

KEVIN FALLON, one of **NEW ZEALAND** sport's most controversial characters, has returned to senior football after taking charge of Auckland Kingz.

Fallon, originally from Yorkshire, is widely acknowledged as one of the best coaches in New Zealand, and was assistant national team boss during the 1982 World Cup finals. However, his career has been tarnished by a number of confrontations with journalists, players and officials, and in recent years he has been away from the spotlight coaching junior sides.

Fallon succeeds Australian Mike Petersen, who stepped down at Kingz within days of a 7-2 annihilation by Perth Glory. The Auckland side are New Zealand's representatives in **AUSTRALIA'S** National Soccer League.

That victory for Glory was one of seven in a row since the start of the season that put them three points clear of surprise package Newcastle United, also unbeaten.

Sobou won **PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S** rescheduled national club championship Final, beating ANZ University 3-0. The match should have been staged a month earlier, but was postponed because of a crowd invasion during University's semi-final against Bugandi.

Two of University's leading players were absent through injuries received in that fracas and they were obviously missed as the Lae team dominated from the outset. Andrew Kasam scored a goal in each half and Ludwig Tianua completed the scoring.

Once powerful Lautoka hung on to their top-grade status in **FIJI** by defeating Rakiraki 3-2 on aggregate in their promotion/relegation play-off. Rakiraki qualified for the tie only after Seaqaqa were stripped of their Second Division title, and with it the right to challenge Lautoka, for fielding an ineligible player in several fixtures. Ironically, Lautoka had 10 points deducted during the season for the same offence.

Paul Moon

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ACROSS

1 Austrian side guided to UEFA Cup qualification by Gregoritsch (6,1,1)
6 Reigning Italian League champions (4)
7 Chile's first-choice sweeper, currently with Reggina in Italy (6)
9 Southampton's lofty Norwegian midfielder (6)
10 Welsh League champions, 2000-01 (5)
11 Monchengladbach midfielder recruited last summer from Besiktas (5)
14 Israel star currently in Turkey with Fenerbahce (6)
16 Moroccan defender at Deportivo La Coruna (6)
17 Midfielder who joined Bisgaard and Fredgaard at FC Copenhagen (4)
18 Brazilian midfielder with 6 Across (8)

DOWN

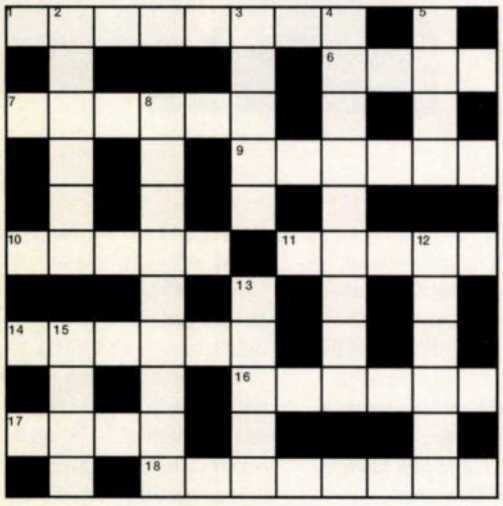
2 African national side now under the management of Hailad Duksivic (6)
3 Goalkeeper of Fenerbahce and Turkey fame (5)
4 Coach of Uruguayan surprise package Danubio (9)
5 Inter's Turkish midfielder formerly with Galatasaray (4)
8 Barcelona stalwart who recently opted to join Brescia of Italy (9)
12 Fiorentina striker sidelined by a serious knee injury (6)
13 Ex-Southampton boss now at First Division Wolves (5)
15 Cameroon forward loaned to Mallorca by Real Madrid (4)

NOVEMBER SOLUTION

Across: 1 Colombia, 6 Leal, 7 Nemeth, 9 Matteo, 10 Meyer, 11 Birce, 14 Ndiaye, 16 Nedved, 17 Ilic, 18 Esnaider.
Down: 2 Olembe, 3 Bohme, 4 Al Ittihad, 5 BATE, 8 Esperance, 12 Canete, 13 Benin, 15 Doll.

NOVEMBER WINNERS

1st prize: Kathy McKearney, Woolwich, London.
5 runners-up: Dr Thorsten Werner, Wuppertal, Germany; Martin Thundercliffe, Berkshire; Pa Sallah Jeng, Gambia; Rossen Walter, Deurne, Belgium; Ivar Eesmann, Tallinn, Estonia.



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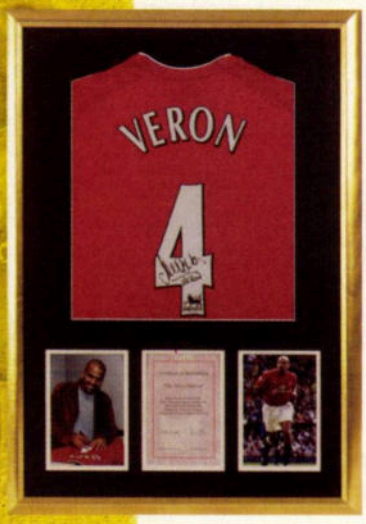

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Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

'I was shocked to find that Premiership players, few of whom earn less than £400,000 a year, are paying a miserable £1.50 a week in union subs'

Deal...Gordon Taylor (right) with the FA's Adam Crozier and the Premier League's Richard Scudamore

PFA and the Premiership? They're as bad as each other

WELL, the footballers' strike didn't take place after all and amen to that, although Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, surely won a substantial victory in upping the TV money that will now come to his organisation.

I must say I tended to think: "A plague on both your houses." You know well enough what I think about the Greed Is Good League, alias the Premiership, and nowadays I don't think much of our professional footballers, either.

It was a shock to me to know that these gentlemen, few if any of whom in the Premiership are earning less than £400,000 a year and a good many of them several times as much, are paying a mere and miserable £1.50 a week in PFA subs. For me, at any rate, this seriously invalidated Taylor's arguments.

We are all for the PFA generously looking after broken down old players, paying for courses of re-training, even paying wages when a club can no longer do so.

Nor does the prospect of the Greed Is Good League shelling out more of its television gains keep me awake at nights. But £1.50 a week! Scandalous.

And I speak as one who, all those years ago, fought the good fight alongside Jimmy Hill for the abolition of the disgraceful £20-a-week maximum wage.

The matter of the subscriptions aside, I was surprised when certain newspaper columnists, little aware of the realities of football, actually accused the players of greed in threatening to strike.

Those people seemed quite unaware of the fact that such a strike would not put a penny in the pockets of the active players themselves.

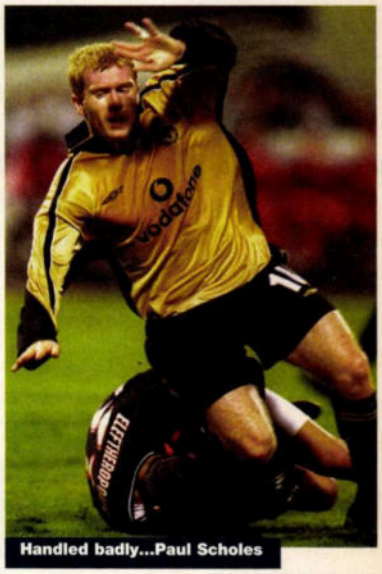
Give the players at least the credit for wanting to do something for their less successful colleagues.

Don't blame the media for United's woes

FOR Alex Ferguson, the birds seem to have come home to roost. His sullen, silly decision not to talk to the media was surely the *reductio ad absurdum* of his attitude across the years.

It was hardly the media that was responsible for all that has gone wrong at Old Trafford this season. The media, after all, didn't get rid of Jaap Stam, 'guilty' of disrespect in his autobiography; nor in his place did they sign such a fragile vessel as the ageing Laurent Blanc.

Nor was it the media who devised the ultra-cautious tactics that Ferguson has used in Europe, illogically leaving his expensive new striker, Ruud van Nistelrooy, alone up front. It wasn't the media, either, that so crudely handled the case of Paul Scholes, surely one of the last players to take offence about anything, or anything bearable. But to use Scholes in a position he clearly detests, to drop him when it doesn't work, then a couple of days later to pick him for that meaningless Worthington Cup match at Highbury in a United team largely consisting of young hopefuls, is surely obtuse in the extreme.



Handled badly...Paul Scholes

Ferguson has never had much time for the media or for any kind of criticism. I still remember an occasion at Swindon, when Eric Cantona stamped on John Moncur. We waited endlessly for Ferguson to come into the press conference, only to learn that he had simply left the stadium, without a word.

Hot property – but what about Wenger's wasted millions?

WHILE Alex Ferguson prepares to ride off, however rich, into the sunset, Arsene Wenger, Arsenal's manager, is enormously in demand. Would he deign to sign a new contract worth several million pounds when he could reportedly make even more millions elsewhere – such as £3m a year at Barcelona?

Yet with all deference to Wenger, I find it hard to understand how he has become such an infinitely desirable property. All credit to him for winning the League and Cup double in 1998 and for coolly refusing to rise to any kind of provocation from Ferguson, unlike Kevin Keegan. Credit to him, too, for acquiring Thierry Henry, Nwankwo Kanu and Sylvain Wiltord.

He complains he cannot possibly compete in the transfer market with Manchester United and yearns for the day when Arsenal can move to a bigger stadium – a reasonable enough ambition when a club that, pre-war, could squeeze in 72,000 can now accommodate no more than 38,000.

But look at the millions that seem wasted – £7m for the Brazilian Edu, sent home for arriving with a fake passport, arriving with another that was valid (so why use a false one?) and barely supporting cast since he did arrive; £8m splashed out on Everton's Francis Jeffers, notoriously prone to injury, who hardly played last season and has scarcely done so since he came to Highbury and ultimately dropped out injured yet again. The less said about struggling centre-back Igor Stepanovs, the better, while Japanese acquisition Junichi Inamoto seems better used as a snare for selling shirts in his homeland than as a first-team player.

All this is at the expense of young talent coming – or not coming – through an enormously expensive youth scheme.

And when Arsenal failed away in Europe yet again, so flaccidly, in La Coruna, Wenger complained his team seemed to lack confidence. But isn't it a manager's job to instil it?

And though he owned up to having made a mistake, what excuse was there for fielding goalkeeper Richard Wright, about whose fitness there were such doubts and who gave away a goal in consequence.

I won't return to the matter of discipline, the plethora of red cards. If only Arsenal could play against flashing, fallible Fabien Barthez every week!

Still on the fringes...Edu

Ominous...as many Celtic fans could be outside as inside the ground in the Phoenix League

Aussies deserved automatic entry

WHY should beaten Australia have been obliged to play off against Uruguay at all? When will FIFA move with the times? When there is no immediate political advantage to be gained.

As winners of the Oceania World Cup qualifying section, the Aussies surely deserved to go through automatically, rather than be paired with a team that could do no better than come fifth in South America.

Phoenix rising so inevitable

RECENT rumours that a so-called Phoenix League was being proposed, embodying Celtic, Rangers and perhaps half-a-dozen English First Division clubs, leaving the rest – not least in Scotland – to rot seemed to me an inevitable concomitant of the Greed Is Good Premier League.

As it gobbles up the vast bulk of the television money (though, as we know, the Nationwide League has been given an absurdly excessive deal), it was utterly predictable that the clubs that dropped out of the charmed circle would be in dire trouble. They are, after all, obliged to go on paying huge sums to star players when the television money is largely then totally cut off. Just look what has happened to Queen's Park Rangers.

For me, the great culprit in this innovation was Graham Kelly, the former chief executive of the Football Association, who seemed incapable of taking any kind of decent decision during his latter years in office.

Typical of this was the error that cost Kelly his job, his decision to back up that ineffable Southampton coroner whose name I can never remember in his quest for a place on a FIFA committee at the expense of such an ally as Scotland's David Will with a generous offer to the FA of Wales. Out, hallelujah, went both of them, but in Kelly's case, too late.

The English FA has historically been above the conflict, concerned not with the interests of professional clubs but with football and its many clubs at large. To go in with the biggest and richest in an ill-judged coup that marginalised the Football League was quite outrageous. But we are stuck with it and with all the ills it has brought.

I've already expressed my view on the insensate greed of Rangers and Celtic, quite ready to leave Scottish football in the lurch. It has already been pointed out that the strict limitations imposed in the Premiership on visiting supporters will radically diminish the number of fans both clubs now bring to their games. That raises the alarming prospect of thousands of ticketless Glaswegians wandering around English towns seeking whom they may devour.

January 1977

ALL roads led to Argentina in the issue of 25 years ago, with the qualifying campaign for the following year's World Cup the dominant theme.

The cover was an action shot from England's recent defeat by Italy, which put Don Revie's men on the back foot in European Group 2 and led to much criticism inside.

Paul Gardner called England's performance a "lamentable showing", while Brian Glanville claimed that "in England we just don't produce players capable of asserting themselves in international football".

To illustrate his point, Revie was depicted as the sailor in an adaptation of a well-known advert for Player's cigarettes, with the legend now reading "Players, please!" In the background, the English ship is sinking fast.

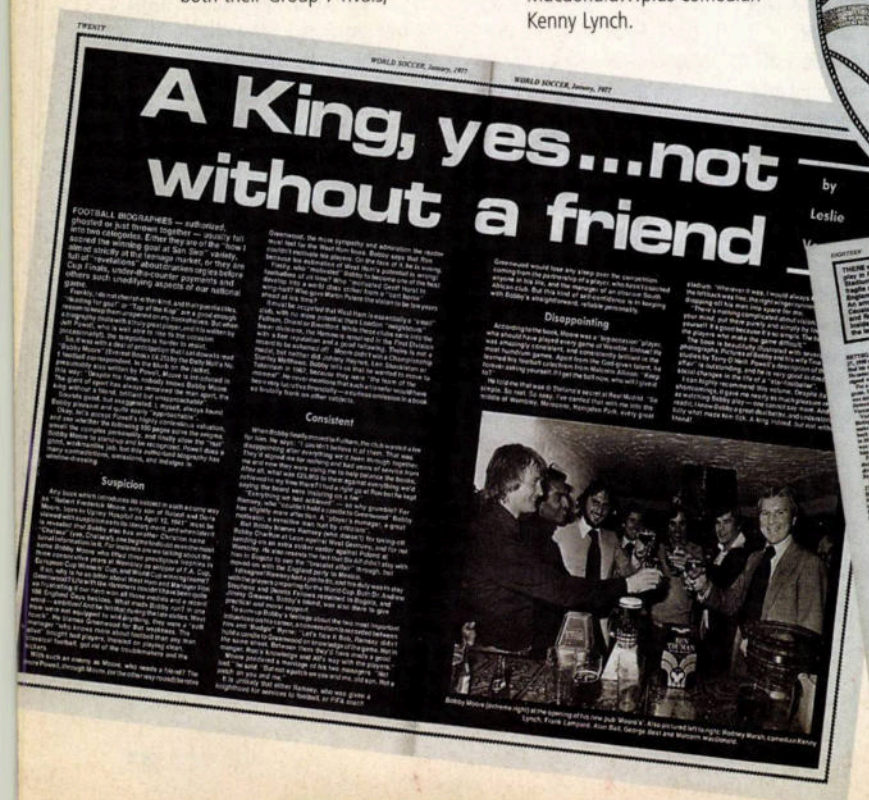
Roberto Bettega was the undoubted star of the show against England, but despite having just turned 26 and been a Juventus player for more than six years, his double-page profile in the issue was entitled: "So, who is this Bettega?".

The reason for the uncertainty, as Keir Radnedge explained, was the forward's chequered career to date. A lung infection in his early days at Juve put Bettega out of the game for seven months, and after his recuperation, he appeared to have lost his spark. Indeed, it was only in the past few months that the forward had made an impression at international level, though it was a considerable one. "As we all saw [against England]," wrote Radnedge, "Roberto Bettega is looking unstoppable this season!"

Scotland, meanwhile, had already met both their Group 7 rivals, Czechoslovakia and Wales, losing to the former, beating the latter. This allowed Scottish correspondent Alex Gordon to make the following assessment: "Comparing Wales to Czechoslovakia is a bit like comparing Pink Floyd to the Bay City Rollers. One has distinct class and knows where it is going. The other is full of energy and very rarely do anything spectacular."

Elsewhere in the issue, Leslie Vernon reviewed the latest biography of Bobby Moore, which revealed, among other things, that the long-time West Ham player had 'Chelsea' as a middle name! Vernon was principally concerned, however, with the assertion from author Jeff Powell that "Bobby Moore, the giant of sport, has always remained the man apart, the king without a friend, brilliant but unapproachable."

Vernon had, in fact, found him "pleasant and quite easily approachable", and certainly Moore did not seem short of friends in the accompanying picture. This was taken at the opening of his new hostelry, imaginatively titled "Mooro's", where the former England defender is seen raising a toast with one of the best 'pub sides' ever formed – Rodney Marsh, Frank Lampard, Alan Ball, George Best and Malcolm Macdonald...plus comedian Kenny Lynch.


A King, yes...not without a friend

by Leslie

SO, WHO IS THIS BETTEGA?

by Keir Radnedge